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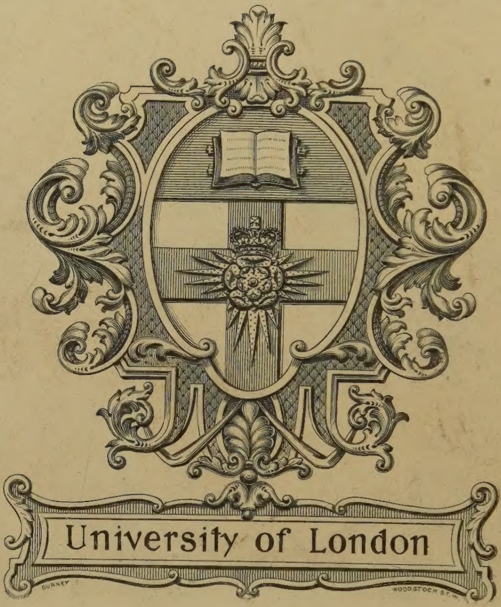
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

6 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CLVII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE ELEVENTH DAY OF MAY
TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF MAY, 1906.

SIXTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

1906.

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CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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Railway Accidents.—Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom, during the three months ended 31st December, 1905: together with Reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the railway department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into. Part II. Reports on accidents 4

Explosions.—(Explosion at Abbey Mills Chemical Works, Stratford-by-Bow, Essex)—Report to the right hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Captain J. H. Thomson, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion of nitro-glycerine in waste acid which occurred at the chemical works of Messrs. F. W. Berk and Company, Limited, at Abbey Mills, Stratford-by-Bow, Essex, on 15th January, 1906 5

Seed Potatoes Supply (Ireland) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 5

Military Mobilisation.

The Earl of Wemyss 5
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 5

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to Order).

Lord Ebury 5

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 4, page 3, line 16, to leave out from the word 'business' to the end of the subsection and to insert the words, 'and any body corporate carrying on such business or use the description of chemist and druggist and failing to comply with the provision of this section shall be guilty of an offence under Sections 15 and 17 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and liable to the penalties therein mentioned."—(*Lord Ebury.*)

The Earl of Lichfield 9
The Marquess of Londonderry 11
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 11
Viscount St. Aldwyn 16
Lord Stanley of Alderley 19
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 19
Lord Belper 20
The Earl of Crewe 22

On Question, "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Bill," their Lordships divided. Contents, 32; Not Contents, 38.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the Clause," agreed to.

Lord Lawrence 23

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 7, and to insert the following clause. 7. This Act, except sections three and four thereof, shall apply to Ireland subject to the following modifications. (*a*) For references to the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, or either of them, there shall be substituted reference to the Poisons (Ireland) Act, 1870, the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, and the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, Amendment Act, 1890, and for references to particular provisions of the first mentioned Acts shall be substituted references to the corresponding provisions of the last-mentioned Act, and in particular for the reference to Schedule A. to the Pharmacy Act, 1868, shall be substituted a reference to Schedule A. to the Poisons (Ireland), Act, 1870, and for the reference to section two of the Pharmacy Act, 1852, shall be substituted a reference to section sixteen of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875. *b*. For the reference to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, there shall be substituted a reference to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. *c*. For references to Orders in Council by His Majesty there shall be substituted references to Orders in Council by the Lord Lieutenant. *d*. Section seventeen of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, Amendment Act, 1890, shall apply where the persons keeping open shop are a company.' "—(*Lord Lawrence.*)

The Earl of Donoughmore 24
The Earl of Mayo 25
The Earl of Crewe 25
The Marquess of Londonderry 27

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next; and to be printed as amended. (No. 82).

MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT, 1897.—Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to this House on the 22nd February last"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth*)—agreed to, and ordered accordingly. The said address to be presented to His Majesty by the Lords with White Staves 27

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendments Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 27

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

Extradition Bill [H.L.] [SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Chancellor 28

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 28
The Marquess of Lansdowne 29

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

Public Trustee Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 3ª.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

Lord Ellenborough 29

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 5, page 6, line 24, to leave out the words 'a solicitor is acting, or has acted in the double capacity of solicitor and trustee,' and to insert the words 'any person is acting in the capacity of trustee, and also in any professional capacity.'"—(*Lord Ellenborough.*)

Lord Davey 30
Lord Chancellor 31

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved, "to leave out Clause 5."—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at half-past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarte before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 11TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next .. 32

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Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 32

London and South-Western Railway Bill—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 32

Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 32

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill—Read the third time, and passed 32

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next 32

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 32

Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 32

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill.—Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 32

North-East London Railway Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill, Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 33

Milford Docks Bill [Lords].—Reported with Amendments [Amended Title]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 33

Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 33

Railway Bills (Group 1).—Mr. Compton Rickett reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, May 15th, at eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 33

Edinburgh Corporation Bill.—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 33

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Ordered, that the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee on the London County Council (General Powers) Bill of Session 1905 be referred to the Committee on the Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill of this Session.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 33

Message from the Lords.—They have agreed to Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of Bury to construct additional tramways within and beyond the borough; and for other purposes." [Bury Corporation Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) and to make further provisions with reference to the undertaking of that Company; to confer further powers upon the Castleblayney, Keady, and Armagh Railway Company; to extend the time limited by The Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Act, 1900, for the completion of works and the purchase of lands; and for other purposes." [Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [Lords].] 33

Bury Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 34

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions of the Mining Association of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table 34

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Balgonie; Birley Woodhouse; Blairadam,; Blairhall; Bowhill; Buckhaven; Cowdenheath and Raith; Denbeath; Gorllwyn; Hill of Beath; Kelty; Lassodie Mill; Lumphinnans; Methil District; Rosebank; Snydale; Townhill; Wellagreen; Wellwood; and Werga; to lie upon the Table. 34

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Sydenham, against, to lie upon the Table 34

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL RELIGIOUS TEACHING.—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Addington (two); Affpuddle with Tonerspuddle; Alfreton; Barming (two); Bickner with Hucking; Bootle (three); Brandesburton; Burnley; Calton (two); Chapelthorpe (two); Cliffe at Hoo (two); Clifton Reynes; Crawley (two); Cuxton (two); Daventry; Detling (two); Eastbourne; East Farleigh (two); East Hoathly (two); Great Barford; Great Somerford; Hartlip (two); Headcorn; Hoo (two); Ightham; Ipswich; Levenshulme (two); Lewisham; Leybourne (two); Limehouse; Llanhamlach (two); Meon Stoke (two); Otham (two); Pembrey (two); Pevensey; Platt; Ripe; Ryarsh (two); Southwark; Stansted; Stoke (two); Stockton-on-Tees; Stoke Hammond (two); Thornham (two); Tinsley (two); Trottiscliffe (two); Unsworth (two); Unsworth Hollins; Upper Clatford; Warbleton; Wateringbury (two); Westbury; West Farleigh (two); and West Peckham (two); to lie upon the Table .. 34

LICENSED PREMISES (EARLIER CLOSING).—Petition from Batley, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 35

MARINE INSURANCE BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 35

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 35

LIGHT DUES (ABOLITION) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 35

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 35

TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 35

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VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions against, from Barrow in Furness and Wells; to lie upon the Table 35

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MEDICAL CONGRESS.—Copy presented, of Report of Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., LL.D., the Delegate of His Majesty's Government to the International Medical Congress held at Lisbon, 19th to 26th April, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 35

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Statement as to the age at which compulsory Education begins in certain Foreign Countries [by Command] to lie upon the Table 35

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st December, 1905, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 35

NATIONAL DEBT.—Copy presented, of Return showing (1) the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State as represented by the Nominal Funded Debt, Estimated Capital Liability in respect of Terminable Annuities, Unfunded Debt, and other Liabilities in respect of Debt, the Estimated Assets, and the Exchequer Balances at the close of each financial year from 1835–6 to 1905–6, both inclusive; and (2) the Gross and Net Expenditure charged annually during that period against the Public Revenue on account of the National Debt, and other Payments connected with Capital Liabilities [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 36

TREATY SERIES (No. 4, 1906).—Copy presented, of Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Independent State of the Congo, modifying the Agreement signed at Brussels, 12th May, 1894. Signed at London 9th May, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 36

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE—INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for 1905, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to be printed [No. 166] 36

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

COMPLETION OF THE SMYRNA AND AKABAH RAILWAY.—Question, Captain Faber (Hampshire, Andover); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 36

DANISH COLONY AT CAPE YORK.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 37

THE "KNIGHT COMMANDER."—Question, Mr. Hart Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 37

CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND SIR ROBERT HART.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 38

UPPER STREET (ISLINGTON) POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Wiles (Islington, E.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 39

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Building Loans to Irish Tenants.—Question, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 39

Sanitary Conditions of Wheathampstead School.—Questions, Mr. H. Stewart (Greenock); Answers, Mr. Birrell 39

The International Tea Company and the Budget Proposals.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Asquith 40

The Royal College of Surgeons.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 40

Judicature Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next and to be printed. [Bill 205.]

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Brunner (Lancashire, Leigh) 41
Mr. Enoch Edwards (Hanley) 45

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. John Wilson (Durham, Mid.) 49

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. John Wilson, Durham.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Burt (Morpeth) 56
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 59
Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 61
Mr. Glover (St. Helens) 65
Mr. Raphael (Derbyshire, S.) 68
Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall) 70
Mr. Brace (Glamorganshire, S.) 72
Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck) 75

Debate arising.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Lord Robert Cecil*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Land Valuation Bill.

Debate arising.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

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Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Stanley Wilson*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, June 15th 95

Trawlers' Certificate Suspension Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Debate arising.

Motion made, and Question. "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Major Anstruther Gray*)—put, and negatived.

Main Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

And, it being Five of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday next 96

Municipal Corporations Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

Mr. Joseph Walton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley*) 80
Mr. Walsh (*Lancashire, Ince*) 81
Mr. J. Johnson (*Gateshead*) 84
Mr. William Abraham (*Glamorganshire, Rhondda*) 86
Mr. Cochrane (*Ayrshire, N.*) 87
The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Herbert Samuel, Yorkshire, Cleveland*) 89

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to

Bill read a second time and committed for Monday next.

Coal Mines Regulations Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Compton Rickett (*Yorkshire, W.R., Osgoldcross*) 92

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 94

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Lambton*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, May 25th.

Sale of Coke Bill.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Post Office (Money Orders) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled. " An Act to amend the Public Health Acts with respect to Building By-laws [Public Health Acts]. Building By-laws) Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, " An Act to amend the Solicitors Acts." [Solicitors Bill [Lords]

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at eight minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 14TH MAY, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Huddersfield Corporation Bill.—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 97

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) [H.L.]

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 97

Standing Orders Committee—Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect to the petition for additional provision in the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional provision.

Read, and agreed to 97

Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 97

Crellin's Patents Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª 97

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [H.L.]—Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [H.L.]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L]. ; Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [H.L.]; Cambrian Railways Bill [H.L.] Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 97

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North Metropolitan Tramways Bill.—Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 97

Municipal Corporations Bill.—Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill. Brought from the Commons 98

Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 98

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill.—Read 1^{a}; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 84) 98

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools.

Of teachers in schools in Preston; St. James, Burnley; Nelson; St. Andrews, Burnley; Tonbridge.

Of parents and guardians of children at schools in Preston; Chatburn; St. Andrews, Burnley.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table. 98

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINES AND QUARRIES (GENERAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 1905. PART 1. DISTRICT STATISTICS).—Statistics of the persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to the inspection districts 98

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3583. United States (Philadelphia).

No. 3584. Russia (St. Petersburg) 98

ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT).

Report for the year 1904.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 98

Municipal Corporation Bill.—Read 1^{a}, and to be printed. (No. 83.) .. 98

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE PORTE.

The Earl of Halsbury 98
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 99

HOME DEFENCE.

The Earl of Wemyss 99
Viscount Galway 107
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) .. 107

Lord Newton 116
Lord Muskerry 119
The Earl of Dundonald 119
The Earl of Donoughmore 122

THE ROYAL DRAGOONS.

The Earl of Erroll 123
Lord Basing 128
The Earl of Portsmouth 129
Lord Methuen 130
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 132
Viscount Ridley 132

STREET BETTING [H.L.]—SECOND READING.—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Davey 132

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª— (*Lord Davey*.)

The Earl of Halsbury 133

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

COOLIE REPATRIATION.

The Duke of Marlborough 133
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 135

House adjourned at five minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 14TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Borough of Great Yarmouth.

Ordered, That the Copy of the Shorthand-Writer's Notes of the Judgment of Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Channell on the Trial of the Election Petition for the Borough of Great Yarmouth, also the Minutes of Evidence taken at the Trial of the said Election Petition, be printed. [No. 169]—(*Mr. Solicitor-General*) 136

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. : — Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords]; Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 139

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Provisional Order Bills (Standing Orders Applicable Thereto Complied with.)—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill ; Water Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow 139

Private Bills [Lords] (Standing Orders not Previously Inquired into not Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.. 139

London County Buildings Bill; Peterborough Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 140

Sheffield Assay Office Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 140

Southampton Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 140

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 140

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords].—To be read a second time to-morrow 140

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords].—Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords] ; South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed 140

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 140

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 140

PETITIONS.

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions in favour ; from Brownhills and Cameron Pit ; to lie upon the Table 140

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against ; from Kennington and Walmer ; to lie upon the Table 141

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of law from Aldbury (two) ; Alkham (two) ; Bardon Hill (two) ; Barnsbury ; Barwell ; Bolton ; Burnley (two) ; Capel le Ferne ; Great Gaddesden ; Horton cum Studley (two) ; Kersal (two) ; Lamorbey (two) ; Launton (two) ; Lostock Gralam ; Macclesfield (two) ; North Rode ; Seale (two) ; Stapleton ; Steep (two) ; Taplow ; and Westwell, to lie upon the the Table 141

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FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1901) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 141

POLLING ARRANGEMENT (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.—Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 141

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS BILL).—Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 141

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3583 and 3584 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 141

MINES AND QUARRIES.—Copy presented, of General Report and Statistics for the year 1905, Part I. (District Statistics), Statistics of the persons employed, Output, and Accidents at Mines and Quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to the Inspection districts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 141

EXPLOSIONS (9, DAWSON STREET, DUBLIN).—Copy presented, of Report by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an explosion of gun-powder which occurred on the premises of Messrs. Trulock, Harriss, and Richardson, Limited, of 9 Dawson Street, Dublin, on March 22nd 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 141

EXPLOSIONS (STRATFORD-BY-BOW).—Copy presented, of Report by Captain J. H. Thomson, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an explosion of nitro-glycerine in waste acid, which occurred at the chemical works of Messrs. F. W. Berk and Company, Limited, at Abbey Mills, Stratford-by-Bow, Essex, on the 15th January 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 142

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).—Copy presented, of Orders made by the County Council of Lancaster, redividing the Eccles and Ormskirk Parliamentary Divisions of the County into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 142

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Camberwell and Stockton-on-Tees, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops within the Boroughs [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 142

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS.—Copy presented, of Twenty-third Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, with Appendices, for the year 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 167.] 142

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd April; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table 142

CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGNERS.—Address for "Return of all Contracts made in the United Kingdom for manufactured articles by the several Government Departments in the year ending the day of March 31st, 1906, either with

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contractors outside the United Kingdom or with contractors or agents who obtained the articles from abroad (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 315, of 1905.)"—(*Sir Howard Vincent*) 143

PROBATION OF FIRST OFFENDERS.—Address for "Return of the number of cases within the Metropolitan Police District, the West Riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Durham, in which persons convicted of first offences have by reason of their youth, or the trivial nature of the offence, been released under recognisances or probation of good conduct in the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, under the Probation of First Offenders Act, 1887 :"

"And of the number of cases in which such persons have been called upon to appear to receive judgment, or are known to have been subsequently convicted of a fresh offence (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 281, of Session 1903)."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*) 143

MAGISTRATES (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Address for "Return of the number of Magistrates appointed in the different counties of England and Wales, with their names, description, and addresses, from the 1st day of January, 1900, to the 11th day of December, 1905."—(*Mr. Bennett.*) 143

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.—Return ordered, "showing particulars as to the action of Local Authorities in Ireland under the Acts compiled to the 31st day of March, 1906 :—

Name of Local Authority.

	Borrowings.					Cost of each scheme.									
						Purchase or estimated value of each site.						Other expenses.			
Number of each scheme.	Date of Local Government Board sanction to loan for each scheme.	Amount borrowed for each scheme.	Period allowed for repayment of each loan.	Rate of interest thereon.	Other moneys applied in aid of each scheme.	Acquired compulsorily.	Acquired by agreement.	Appropriated.	Extent of land included in same.	Cost of clearance, etc.	Cost of new buildings, including approaches, drains, etc.	Law costs, including cost of Act or Provisional Order.	Architects' and engineers' fees.	Other charges.	Total cost of each scheme.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.

Name of Local Authority—*continued.*

Accommodation provided.						Income received in respect of year ended March 31st, 1906.			Expenditure in respect of year ended March 31st, 1906.						Differences.		
Number of houses completed.	Number of houses in course of erection.	Total number of houses erected and to be erected.	Number of families provided for under Column 17.	Number of families to be accommodated under Column 18.	Total number of families provided for or to be accommodated.	Rents from occupiers.	Other sources, including portion of site temporarily let.	Total.	Interest.	Sinking fund.	Rent of site.	Rates and taxes.	Other charges, including repairs, collectors' fees, etc.	Total.	Surplus, being difference between Columns 31 and 25.	Loss, being difference between Columns 25 and 31.	Observations.
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.

—(*Mr. Dillon*).

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Report to lie upon the Table 207

NEW BILLS.

Education (Consolidation) Bill.—"To consolidate the Education Acts," presented by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 206] 208

Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Bill.—"To amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Acts," presented by Mr. T. W. Russell; supported by Mr. Law, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Glendinning, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Jordan; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 208] 208

Naval Lands (Volunteers) Bill.—"To extend the Military Lands Acts to Naval and Marine Volunteers," presented by Mr. Edmund Robertson; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 209] 208

Plural Voting Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) 208

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this House declines to consider a change in the franchise unaccompanied by a scheme to remove the serious anomalies now existing in the distribution of electoral power.'"—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

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Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 215
Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) 221
Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs) 225
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Mr. Carlile (Herts., St. Albans) 261

And, it being a quarter past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

Mersey Railway Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER); Wirral Railway [Extension of Time] Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Second Reading deferred till To-morrow, at a quarter past Eight of the Clock.

[Mr. EMMOTT, Deputy-Speaker, in the Chair.]

Plural Voting Bill.—Postponed Proceeding on Amendment to Question [14th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time;" resumed.

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

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Mr. Billson (Staffordshire, N.W.) 265
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Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland) 275
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 277
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.) 279
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Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth) 284
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 286
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 294

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 403; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 72.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

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Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 303

Sale of Coke Bill.—Order for resuming adjourned debate on Second Reading [11th May] read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn 303

Education (England and Wales) [Expenses].—Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of an additional Annual Grant to local education authorities, and of the remuneration and expenses of the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of any Act of the present session to make further provision with respect to education in England and Wales (King's recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(*Mr. Birrell.*) 304

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 15TH MAY, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Poole Corporation Water Bill.—Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Monday next 305

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [H.L.]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [H.L.]; Crediton Lighting and Power Bill [H.L.]; Thornton Urban District Gas Bill; Rugby Subordinate School Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 305

Carlisle Corporation Bill.—Reported, without Amendment 305

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with an Amendment 305

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill.— The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 305

London County Buildings Bill; Peterborough Gas Bill; Southampton Gas Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners 305

Sheffield Assay Office Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 305

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next 305

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. [No. 86.] 305

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London Squares and Enclosures Bill. [H.L.].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

The Earl of Wemyss 306
The Chairman of Committee (*The Earl of Onslow*) 306

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Educational Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 1.) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order).

[The EARL OF ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 agreed to.

Lord Monkswell 307

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert the following new clause: 'Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 92 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, the council may take such part of the lands, houses, and premises shown on plan No. 6, and distinguished thereon by the Nos. 1 to 21, and of the land, house, and premises shown on plan No. 8, and distinguished thereon by the No. 2, and described in the schedule to this Act, as they may require without being required or compellable to purchase the whole or any greater part of any such lands, houses, and premises. The provisions of this section shall be stated in every notice given thereunder by the Council to sell and convey any premises."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

The Earl of Camperdown 308
Lord Monkswell 308
Viscount Knutsford 308
Lord Heneage 309
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 309
The Marquess of Londonderry 310
Lord Monkswell 310
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 311
The Marquess of Salisbury 311

Moved, "That the Committee stage stand adjourned."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to, and House resumed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools: Of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Ulcy; Standish; Great Lever; Longgrove; Of teachers in schools at Standish; Great Lever; Longgrove; Of inhabitants of Standish; Longgrove. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 312

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EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Code of regulations for continuation classes providing further instruction for those who have left school, 1906 312

TREATY SERIES No. 5 (1906).—Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark providing for the settlement by arbitration of certain classes of questions which may arise between the two Governments; signed at London 25th October, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 4th May, 1906) 312

POST OFFICE (TELEGRAMS).—Indenture supplemental to agreement of 2nd February, 1905, between His Majesty's Postmaster-General and the National Telephone Company Limited 312

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No. 3585. United States (Texas).

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Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 312

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Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; and read 1^{a}, and to be printed. (No. 85) 313

Notice of Accidents Bill.—Order for Second Reading on Monday next discharged 313

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.—The Lord Grimthorpe discharged from serving on the Select Committee, and the Lord Wolverton added to the Committee in his place 313

Conveyancing Bill [H.L.]; Settled Land Bill [H.L.]; Married Women's Property Bill [H.L.].—The Lords following were named of the Select Committee, viz.—

E. Halsbury,
V. Knutsford,
V. Selby,
L. Stanley of Alderley.
L. Macnaghten,
L. Davey.

The Committee to meet on Monday next, at Twelve o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman 313

Bills of Exchange Bill [H.L.] [SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Avebury 313

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Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Avebury.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 314
Lord Hemphill 314
Lord Ashbourne 315
Lord Avebury 315

Debate adjourned to Tuesday next.

Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Lord Burghclere 316
The Marquess of Londonderry 316

Bill reported, without Amendment, to the House, and recommitted to the Standing Committee.

Colonial Marriages Bill [H.L.] [SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 316

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

Viscount Halifax 320
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 323
Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal 324
The Marquess of Salisbury 325
Lord James of Hereford 328
The Lord Bishop of Southwark 330
The Lord Chancellor 331

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

THE UNEMPLOYED PROCESSION.

Lord Teynham 333
Earl Beauchamp 334

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY. 15TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London and South Western Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 334

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Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 334

Sutton, Southcoats and Drypool Gas Bill; Waterford, Corporation and Bridge Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 334

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Water Provisional Order Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 334

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, and the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902, relating to Eastwood and Cathcart and Kilpatrick," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 210] 334

Standing Orders.—Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

1. " That, in the case of the Oldham and Saddleworth Tramways (Abandonment) Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. " That, in the case of the Poole Corporation Water, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. " That, in the case of the Ritz Hotel, Limited [Lords], Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

4. " That, in the case of the Crellin's Patents [Lords], Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to 335

London United Tramways Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 335

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to—Milwall Dock Bill, without Amendment; North Metropolitan Tramways Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee, to amend the Judicial Trustees Act, 1896, and otherwise to amend the Law relating to the administration of Trusts." Public Trustee Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, " An Act to authorise the transfer to the Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies of certain works authorised by the Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock (South Yorkshire Extension Lines) Act, 1902, and to the Great Central Railway Company of the undertaking of the Rotherham, Maltby, and Laughton Railway Company; to empower the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company to construct a new railway, and to acquire additional lands; and for other purposes." [Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords].

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Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company to provide and work steam vessels between the Port of Hull and certain Continental Ports, and to subscribe to the funds of Steamship Companies; and for other purposes." [Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time limited for the purchase of lands and for the construction and completion of the tramways, street widenings, and works authorised by the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Act, 1903; and for other purposes." [Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for an increase of the share capital of United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, and for other purposes." [Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Cambrian Railways Company to acquire additional lands, and to extend the time for the completion of the railway authorised by the Cambrian Railways Act, 1901; and for other purposes." [Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords.]

And also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the vesting of the Undertaking of the Donegal Railway Company in the Midland Railway Company and in a Joint Committee of that Company and the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland); to incorporate such Joint Committee and to transfer to that Committee certain of the powers of the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) in connection with the Undertaking of the Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Company; and for other purposes." [Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railway Bill [Lords.] 335

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Resolution agreed to 374

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION [EXPENSES].—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the Expenses of the Secretary of State, and of the remuneration and Expenses of

Medical Referees and Arbitrators incurred under any Act of the present session to consolidate and amend the Law with respect to Compensation to Workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment, and of Compensation to workmen employed by or under the Crown in pursuance of such Act."—(*Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.*) 375
Colonel Legge (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) 375

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

Reserve Forces Bill.—Order for the Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Lord Willoughby de Eresby (*Lancashire, Horncastle*) 376
The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Haldane, Haddington*) 376
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 376
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs*) 376
Colonel Legge 377
Mr. Haldane 377

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 378
Mr. Haldane 378
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 378

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 24, after the word 'forces' to insert the word 'knowingly.'"—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'knowingly' be there inserted."

Mr. Haldane 379
Lord Balcarres 379

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Mr. Haldane 379
Sir William Anson (Oxford University) 380
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.) 380
Mr. Haldane 380
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 381
Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square) 380
Sir William Anson 381

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes 68 ; Noes 314. (Division List No. 73.)

Sir William Anson 385

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 2, to leave out the words 'to his knowledge.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Haldane 387
Lord R. Cecil 387
Mr. George Faber (York) 387
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 388
Lord R. Cecil 388
Sir William Anson 388
Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby) 389
Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square) 390

Amendment negatived.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Lord Willoughby de Eresby 390
Mr. Haldane 391
Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.) 391
Lord Willoughby de Eresby 392
Mr. George Faber (York) 393

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 332 ; Noes, 73. (Division List No. 74.)

Clause 3 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. William Rutherford 397
Mr. Haldane 398

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the third time, and passed.

Local Authorities (Transfer of Treasury Powers) Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Lord Balcarres 399

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) 399
Mr. Arnold-Forster (*Croydon*) 400
Lord R. Cecil 401
Mr. George Whiteley 401

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 77; Noes, 353. (Division List, No. 75.)

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 495

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words 'except the London County Council.'"—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.*)

The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (*Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.*) 495
Mr. William Rutherford 406
Mr. Nield (*Middlesex, Ealing*) 407
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson 408
Captain Craig (*Down. E,*) 409
Mr. Dickinson (*St. Pancras, N.*) 409
Mr. Rawlinson (*Cambridge University*) 410
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. John Burns, Battersea*) 411
Mr. Victor Cavendish (*Derbyshire, W.*) 412

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn

Mr. Charles Craig (*Antrim, S.*) 412

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, after the word 'Council,' to insert the words 'or any Corporation of a town containing over two hundred thousand inhabitants.'"—(*Mr. Charles Craig.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. McKenna 413
Mr. William Rutherford 413
Mr. McKenna 416

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Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 67; Noes, 347. (Division List, No. 76.)

Mr. Lane-Fox (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash*) 419

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 8 and 9, to leave out the words 'the Baths and Washhouses Acts, 1846 to 1899.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. McKenna 420

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lane-Fox 420

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section (2) stand part of the Clause."

Mr. McKenna 421
Lord Balcarres 421
Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 421
Mr. McKenna 422
Lord Helmsley (*Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 422

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 298; Noes, 37. (Division List, No. 77.)

Mr. William Rutherford 425

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

Mersey Railway Bill [Lords]. (By Order.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Vivian (*Birkenhead*) 427
Mr. Samuel Roberts (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 428

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Vivian.*)

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Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 429
Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 430
Mr. David MacIver (Liverpool, Kirkdale) 430
Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow. Camlachie) 432

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to; Bill read a second time, and committed.

Mr. Vivian 432

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to leave out Clause 5 of the Bill."—(*Mr. Vivian*).

Mr. Alexander Cross 433
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) 435
Mr. Wallace (Perth) 437
Mr. W. H. Lever (Cheshire, Wirral) 438
Mr. Harmood-Banner (Liverpool, Everton) 439
Mr. Beale (Ayrshire, S.) 440
Mr. Morton (Sutherland) 441

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 199; Noes, 108. (Division List, No. 78.)

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Second Reading deferred till to-morrow 443

Local Authorities (Transfer of Treasury Powers) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Mr. William Rutherford 445

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out Subsection (3)."—(*Mr. Watson Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section (3) stand part of the clause."

Mr. McKenna 445
Mr. William Rutherford 445

Question put.

Committee divided:—Ayes, 303; Noes, 47. (Division List, No. 79.)

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time and passed.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS (STAMP DUTY).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of a Stamp Duty of Five pounds on Certificates of Registration in the case of Alkali Works and of Three pounds in the case of any other Work in pursuance of any Act of the present session to consolidate and amend the Alkali, &c., Works Regulation Acts, 1881 and 1892, and the payment out of moneys provided by Parliament, of salaries and remuneration and of expenses incurred in the execution of such Act.—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Resolution to be reported to-morrow. 450

Alkali, etc., Works Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

Amendments proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'discharge,' to insert the words 'whether directly or indirectly.'"

"In page 1, line 23, and page 2, line 1, to leave out the words 'whether directly or by a chimney or other outlet.'"

"In page 2, line 6, after the word 'other,' to insert the word 'final.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4, 5, and 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 :—

Amendments proposed—

"In page 4, line 14, after the word 'discharge,' to insert the words 'whether directly or indirectly.'"

"In page 4, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'whether directly or by a chimney or other outlet.'"

"In page 4, line 21, after the word 'other,' to insert the word 'final.'" .. ..

"In page 4, line 26, after the word 'other' to insert the word 'final.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8:—

Amendments proposed—

"In page 4, line 41, after the word 'works,' to insert the the words 'or in any works in which sulphide ores, including regulus, are calcined or smelted (hereinafter called "smelting works").'"

"In page 5, line 9, after the word 'cement works,' to insert the words 'or smelting works.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Stanley.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 postponed.

Clauses 11 to 31 agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow. 451

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [7th May], "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed 452

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-seven minutes after Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 16TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [LORDS]; Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Pontefract Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 453

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National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed 453

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment) Bill.—Report [15th May] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.
Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 453

Cork and Waterford Railways Bill.—Reported [Parties do not proceed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 453

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Bishopwearmouth (two); Brighouse (two); Bromsgrove; Ferryhill (two); Great and Little Packington; Hackney; Linton in Craven; London (nine); New Radford; Packington; Pallion (two); Wearmouth; Worcester; and Wormleighton; to lie upon the Table 453

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill.—Petition from Worsley, in favour; to lie upon the Table 453

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THE POLICE ARRESTS COMMISSION.—Question, Lord R. Cecil; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 498

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SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEE).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts, Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Mr. Channing; and had appointed in substitution; Mr. M'Laren.

Report to lie upon the Table 499

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Andrew Bonar Law, esquire, for the Parliamentary Borough of Camberwell (Dulwich Division) 499

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.—Fourth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table and to be printed 499

NEW BILLS.

Railways and Steamships (Parliamentary Facilities) Bill—"To secure travelling facilities for Members of Parliament in the discharge of their Parliamentary duties," presented by Mr. Crooks; supported by Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, Sir Christopher Furness, Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Agar-Robartes, Sir John Brunner, Sir Edward Sassoon, Mr. Watson Rutherford, Mr. Wolff, Mr. Charles Schwann, Sir William Bull, and Mr. Joyce; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 211.] 499

Patents Bill—"To amend the Law relating to Patents," presented by Mr. Dundas White; supported by Dr. Shipman, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Smeaton, and Mr. Findlay; to be read a second time upon Friday, June 15th, and to be printed. [Bill 212.] 499

Wills Act (1837) Amendment Bill.—"To amend The Wills Act, 1837," presented by Mr. Dundas White; supported by Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. M'Kinnon Wood, Mr. Molteno, and Mr. Cleland; to be read a second time upon Friday, June 15th, and to be printed. [Bill 213.] 500

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 500

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide for taking a Census of Production."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Mr. J. Chamberlain (Birmingham, W.) 502

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Kearley, and Mr. McKenna.

Census of Production Bill.—"To provide for taking a Census of Production," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 214.]

Finance Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

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Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.) 504
Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 511
Mr. Lambton (Durham, S.E.) 515
Mr. Trevelyan (Yorks., W.R., Elland) 519
Mr. J. Chamberlain (Birmingham, W.) 520
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 529
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Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne) 544
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 546
Mr. Cairns (Newcastle-on-Tyne) 548
Sir William Bull (Hammersmith) 549

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Committed for Monday next.

HOURS OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham) 552
Mr. Hudson (Newcastle-on-Tyne) 559

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That, in the opinion of this House, the Hours of Railway Servants are still in many cases excessive, notwithstanding the operation of the Hours Act, of 1893, and call for stringent action by legislation and administration to secure their reduction to a reasonable standard.—(*Mr. Alden.*)

Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 565
Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping) 566
Mr. Bell (Derby) 568
Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) 575
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 576

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, " That, in the opinion of this House, the hours of railway servants are still in many cases excessive, notwithstanding the operation of the Hours Act of 1893, and call for stringent action by legislation and administration to secure their reduction to a reasonable standard." —(*Mr. Alden.*)

Municipal Powers Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.) 581

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 584

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at three minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 17TH MAY, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London and North Western Railway Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 585

Huddersfield Corporation Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 585

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Haslingden Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Clacton Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 585

Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Water Works and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Savile and the Lord Haversham be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Willoughby de Broke and the Lord Suffield; read, and agreed to 585

London and South Western Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners 585

Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments 585

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to Order) 585

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Order of the day for the Third Reading read, and discharged .. 585

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petition in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of England schools; of parents and guardians of children attending schools in Rivaulx; Wood Top; Bilsdale Midcable; Pockley; Hawnby; Cold Kirby; Helmsley; Eastmoors; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 586

CONVEYANCING BILL [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of the Manchester Incorporated Law Association; read, and referred to the Select Committee .. 586

Settled Land Bill [h.l.].—Petition in favour of; of the Manchester Incorporated Law Association; read, and referred to the Select Committee .. 586

Married Woman's Property Bill [h.l.].—Petition in favour of; of the Manchester Incorporated Law Association; read, and referred to the Select Committee 586

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Sunday Trading.—The evidence taken before the Joint Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee, and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order. (No. 87.) 586

Board of Education.—Statement of information collected by the Board of Education and the Foreign Office regarding methods adopted in great Continental and American cities for dealing with underfed children 587

Trade Reports: Annual Series.

No. 3587. United States (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho).

No. 3588. China (Wuchow).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 587

Polling Districts (West Riding of Yorkshire).—Order made by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire constituting polling districts and assigning polling places thereto 587

Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.—Twenty-third Report of the Comptroller-General of patents, designs, and trade marks, with appendices, etc., for the year, 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 587

Reserve Forces Bill (No. 88); Seamen's and Soldiers False Characters Bill (No. 89); Local Authorities (Transfer of Treasury Powers) Bill (No. 90); Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill (No. 91).—Brought from the Commons, and read 1ª, and to be printed 587

Police (Superannuation) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order).
[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]
Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

Viscount Ridley 587

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 21, after the word 'Reserve,' to insert the words, 'or has been on active service with the Regular Forces as a Volunteer.'")—(*Viscount Ridley.*)

Earl Beauchamp 588
Viscount Ridley 588

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Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

Viscount Ridley 588

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 10, after the word 'ground' to insert the following new sub-section, 'or (*h*) if the grantee holds any licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail in the district of the police force in which he previously served.'"—(*Viscount Ridley.*)

Earl Beauchamp 589

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Lord Newton 590

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7 to insert the following new clause: 'The words "in which he has completed not less than three years approved service," contained in Section 4, Sub-section 4, of the Police Act, 1890, are hereby repealed.'"—(*Lord Newton.*)

Earl Beauchamp 591
Lord Newton 592
The Earl of Carlisle 592

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Lord Newton 592

Remaining Clause agreed to; and Bill reported with Amendment to the House. Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. [No. 92.]

Aliens Bill [Second Reading.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Weardale 593

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Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Weardale.*)

Viscount Ridley 594
Earl Beauchamp 600
The Marquess of Londonderry 601
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 603
The Marquess of Lansdowne 605
The Marquess of Salisbury 610
Lord Joicey 611

On Question, that the Bill be now read 2^a, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 24; Not-Contents, 96.

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order): An Amendment made, Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendment to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. [No. 93] 613

Extradition Bill [H.L.]; Street Betting [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order.) Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committees negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a To-morrow 613

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Earl Russell 613
Lord Kinnaird 617
Earl Beauchamp 617

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 17TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Bury Corporation Bill [Lords]; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, that the Bills be read a second time 618

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills referred

on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow 619

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and Other Bridges) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 619

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Barton-upon-Irwell, Cheshunt, Dorchester (Amendment), Eton (Rural), Hexham (Extension), Stourport and Kidderminster, and Uxbridge and District (Extension)," presented by Mr. Kearley ; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George ; read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 215] .. 619

Poole Corporation Water Bill.—" To authorise the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Poole to acquire the undertaking of the Poole Waterworks Company, to construct additional waterworks, and to supply water within the said borough and the neighbourhood thereof ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and ordered to be read a second time 619

Derby Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table 619

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill ; Great Northern Railway Bill ; Metropolitan Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 619

Manchester Corporation Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [amended Title]. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 619

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time. 619

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 4).—Ordered, That Oliver R. H. Bury do attend the Committee on Group 4 of Railway Bills To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock 620

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP G.).—Mr. ALFRED HUTTON reported from the Committee on Group G. of Private Bills ; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at Eleven of the clock ..

Report to lie upon the Table 620

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, Etc.) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow 620

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law ; From Ashton-under-Lyne (two) ; Burley ;

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Chiddingfold (two); Clydach-on-Tawe (two); Hale (two); Kingston-upon-Hull; Llandefaelog-fach (two); Llanguicke (two); Llansamlet (two); London; Lower Peover (two); Middleton; Nottingham; Otten Belchamp (two); Oystermouth; Paddington (two); Plaistow; Port Eynon (two); Ripley (Yorks) (two); St. Pancras; Stoke next Guilford (four); Walgrave (two); Walthamstow; Walthamstow and Leyton; and, Winchester (two); to lie upon the Table 620

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table 621

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.—Petition of the Temperance Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table. 621

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC., (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 621

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO.—Petition from South Shields, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 621

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petition from the Royal Burghs of Scotland, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table 621

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.—Petition from St. Marylebone, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 621

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from South Shields, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table 621

SALE OF WHISKY BILL.—Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table 621

STREET BETTING BILL.—Petition from St. Pancras, in favour; to lie upon the Table 621

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (CHILDREN) BILL.—Petition from Dundee, in favour; to lie upon the Table 621

TRAWLERS' CERTIFICATES SUSPENSION BILL.—Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table 622

TUBERCULOSIS (ANIMALS) PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION BILL.—Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table 622

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions against; from Blaby; and East Retford; to lie upon the Table 622

VOTING DISQUALIFICATION (POOR LAW) REMOVAL BILL.—Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table 622

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TAXES AND IMPOSTS.—Return ordered, "showing (1) the Rates of Duties, Taxes, or Imposts collected by Imperial officers; (2) the quantities or amounts taxed; (3) the gross receipts derived from each Duty; and (4) the net receipts and appropriations thereof in the year ending the 31st day of March, 1906; and (1) the aggregate gross receipts derived from all such

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Duties, Taxes, or Imposts under the principal heads of revenue; (2) the aggregate net receipts; (3) the charges of collection; and (4) the produce, after deducting these charges, on each of the ten years ending the 31st day of March, 1906; and notes to show any changes in the Taxes, Duties, and Imposts consequent upon the acceptance of the Budget proposals of 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 274, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Goddard.*) 622

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

VACANCIES IN THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Goddard (Ipswich); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 622

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ATROCITIES IN THE CONGO STATE.—Question, Mr. Bennett (Oxfordshire, Woodstock); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 623

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CASE OF THE REV. EDGAR STANNARD.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 625

HINDUSTAN—TIBET ROAD.—Question, Sir Henry Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 625

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MARRIED TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Ashley ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 653

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ABSTRACTORS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Snowden (Blackburn) ; Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 654

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THE ROYAL CANAL.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell ; Answers, Mr. Cherry 657

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CASE OF MRS. BROOKS.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Cherry 660

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ARMAGH DIRECT LABOUR SCHEME.—Question, Mr. McKillop (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 662

MR. CORBOY'S LEITRIM PROPERTY.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 663

WASTE LANDS IN COUNTY SLIGO.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd; Answer, Mr. Cherry 664

SLIGO AND THE IRISH SEED LOAN.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd; Answer, Mr. Cherry 664

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HUNGERFORD AND CLORAH ESTATE, COUNTY CORK.—Questions, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, Mr. Cherry 665

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.) and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Cherry 665

LAND PURCHASE ACT AND MINING RIGHTS.—Questions, Mr. Sheehy (Meath, S.); Answers, Mr. Cherry 666

IRISH BUTTER TRADE.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell and Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick); Answers, Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Waldron, for Sir Edward Strachey) 667

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Mr. James Stuart; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Wilkie.

Report to lie upon the Table 667

NEW BILLS.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.—"To prohibit the sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday," presented by Mr. Perks; supported by Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Whittaker, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Spicer, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. White, Mr. Maclean, Mr. Shackleton, and Mr. Burt; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 19th June, and to be printed. [Bill 216] 668

Irish Education (Afflicted Children) Bill.—"To make better provision for the Elementary Education of Afflicted Children in Ireland," presented by Mr. Bryce; supported by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 217] 668

SUPPLY [8TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £31,800 be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Houses of Parliament Buildings."

Mr. Harold Cox (Preston) 668
The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) 669
Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire) 669

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Crombie*).

Mr. Harcourt 672
Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton) 673
Mr. Akers-Douglas (Kent, St. Augustine's) 674
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 674
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 675
Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston) 676
Mr. Harcourt 678
Mr. Morton (Sutherlandshire) 678

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 119; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 80.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Harwood 681
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 684
Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby) 685
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 687
Sir William Bull (Hammersmith) 689
Mr. Harcourt 689
Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet) 693
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 694
Mr. Morton 694
Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid.) 695
Mr. Harcourt 696

Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) .. 699
Mr. Cremer .. 699
Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent) .. 701

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That item A be reduced by £700." —(*Mr. John Ward.*)

Mr. Harcourt .. 702
Mr. Dillon .. 703
Mr. A. L. Stanley (Cheshire, Eddisbury) .. 706
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) .. 704
Mr. William Rutherford .. 705
Mr. Stanley Wilson (York, E. R., Holderness) .. 706
Mr. Harcourt .. 704

Leave to withdraw refused.

Question put and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. William Rutherford .. 706

Motion made and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £31,700, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Watson Rutherford.*) .. ..

Mr. Harcourt .. 709
Captain Craig (Down, E.) .. 709
Mr. Weir .. 710
Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) .. 710
Mr. John O'Connor (Kildare, N.) .. 710
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) .. 711
Mr. Harcourt .. 712

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £48,000, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for expenses in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

Mr. Weir .. 714
Mr. Stanley Wilson .. 714
Mr. William Rutherford .. 714
Mr. Morton .. 715
Mr. T. L. Corbett .. 715
Mr. Harcourt .. 716
Lord Balcarres .. 717

Vote agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £8,400, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for Osborne."

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Mr. Stanley Wilson 718
Mr. Harcourt 718

Vote agreed to.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum not exceeding £426,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Customs, Inland Revenue, Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, and certain Post Offices abroad, including Furniture, Fuel, and sundry Miscellaneous Services."

Mr. Stanley Wilson 719
Mr. Harcourt 720

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 234 ; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 81.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £61,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens."

Mr. Morton 723
Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.) 723
Mr. William Redmond 723
Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 724
Mr. William Rutherford 724
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 725
Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich) 725
Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey) 726

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £61,400, be granted for the said service."—(*Dr. Cooper.*)

Mr. Harcourt 727

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. William Rutherford 729
Mr. William Redmond 731
Sir Gilbert Parker 733
Colonel Legge 733
Mr. T. L. Corbett 733
Mr. Harcourt 734

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £46,000, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1907, in respect of Royal Palaces."

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Vote agreed to.

7. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £317,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

Mr. Stanley Wilson 735
Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh, Central) 736
Mr. Harcourt 737
Mr. Alexander Cross 737
Mr. Weir 738

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £34,800, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for expenses in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Harcourt*)—put and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

The Aliens Bill.—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 739
Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) 740
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 741
Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle) 741
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 742
Mr. Paul (Northampton) 743
Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-upon-Trent) 743
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 743
Mr. William Abraham (Glamorganshire, Rhondda) 744

And, it being half-past Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House, pursuant to the Standing Order, without Question put.

Adjourned at thirty minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 18TH MAY, 1906.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Newport Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 745

Newtownwards Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 745

Trent Navigation Company Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 745

Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]; Crediton Gas Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 745

Carlisle Corporation Bill; read 3^a and passed 745

Thornton Urban District Gas Bill; read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 745

Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2.) Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Kenmare (*E. Kenmare*) be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Duke of Wellington; read, and agreed to. 745

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 745

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, &c.) Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1^a; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. (No. 94). 745

Cathcart District Railway (Superflous Lands) Order Confirmation Bill; North Berwick Corporation Order Confirmation Bill. Read 3^a (according to order), and passed 745

PETITIONS.

Education.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools. Of parents or guardians of children attending schools at Beyton; Colne; Blackpool; Bury; Heckleton; Edenfield; Unsworth; Stand; Deane; Heywood. Of teachers in schools at Colne; Bury; Blackburn; Penwortham; Heckleton; Unsworth; Stand; Deane; Heywood; Elton. Of inhabitants of Beyton.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 746

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Colonial Conference.—Correspondence relating to a proposed Colonial Conference in 1907. (In continuation of (Cd. 2785), November, 1905) .. 746

Navy (Hydrographer's Report).—Report on Admiralty surveys for the year 1905, by the hydrographer 746

National Gallery (Ireland).—Report of the Director to the Board of Governors and Guardians, for the year 1905 .. ..

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 746

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INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).—Statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1904–1905. Forty-first Number.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 746

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill H.L.]—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 746

Extradition Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 746

Wireless Telegraphy Bill.—Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

Lord Avebury 747
The Earl of Granard 747
The Marquess of Londonderry 749
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 749

House in Committee (according to order).

The Earl of Granard 749

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 7, to leave out the word 'twelve' and to insert the word 'nine.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining Clause agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. (No. 95.)

Merchant Shipping (Aliens) Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Muskerry 750

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

Earl Ellenborough 761
The Earl of Granard 763

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert these words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

The Marquess of Salisbury 765
Lord Heneage 767
The First Lord of the Admiralty (*Lord Tweedmouth*) 768
Lord Muskerry 769

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn. Then the original Motion and Bill (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Street Betting Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read. Moved, That the Bill be now read 3^{a}.—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Bill read 3^{a}.

The Earl of Wemyss 770

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, to leave out Subsection (2)."—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Davey 770

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at five minutes past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 18TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Sutton District Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 771

North Metropolitan Tramways Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 771

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 771

Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title] 771

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [Lords]; Holyhead Water Bill [Lords]; Milford

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Docks Bill [Lords]; Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords]; North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill, as amended, considered; to be read the third time 771

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, etc) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 771

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 771

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 771

Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—Reported without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 772

South Suburban Gas Bill; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords]; Metropolitan Water Board Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 772

Cheltenham Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 772

Knott End Railway Bill [Lords].—Reported without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 772

Cork Link Railways Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table 772

Railway Bills (Group 5).—Mr. Ashton reported from the Committee on Group 5 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 772

Railway Bills (Group 1).—Mr. Compton Rickett reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That to suit the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at a quarter-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 772

Railway Bills (Group 4).—Sir George Doughty reported from the Committee on Group 4 of Railway Bills; That, to suit the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 772

Message from the Lords.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the powers and to change the name of the Maryport Harbour Company; and for other purposes." [Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords.]]

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Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Glamorgan County Council to make inquiries and surveys with a view to the utilisation of water supplies in South Wales; and for other purposes." [Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the Cardiff Railway Company to make a deviation of a portion of Railway No. 4, authorised by The Cardiff Railway Act, 1897, for extending the time for the purchase of certain lands and for the completion of certain railways; and for other purposes." [Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of Haslingden to construct and work tramways, and to make further provision for the improvement, local government, and health of the borough of Haslingden; and for other purposes." [Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to transfer to the Urban District Council of Clacton the powers and property of the Commissioners appointed under the provisions of The Clacton-on-Sea Special Drainage District Act, 1880; to enable them to construct further sea defence works; and for other purposes." [Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Barry Railway Company." [Barry Railway Bill [Lords].] 772

Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords]; Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]; Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]; Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Barry Railway Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 773

PETITIONS.

DOGS BILL.—Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 773

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; From Accrington; Aston Magna; Beyton (two); Bletchingley; Broughton in Furness; Cotheridge; Croydon; Drighlington (two); Droitwich and Dodderhill; Dudley; Horsforth; Johnston; Kidderminster (two); Lower Heyford; Martyr Worthy (two); North Kensington; Ombersley; Pedmore; Ripple; Rishton; Romsley; Ryde; St. Paul in the Blockhouse; Shanklin; Stalybridge; Stoke Poges; Stourbridge; Stourport; Swansea (four); Ventnor; Waltham; Wollaston; and Worcester; to lie upon the Table 773

LAND VALUATION BILL.—Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table 774

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table 774

LANDS VALUATION (SCOTLAND) ACT (1854) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table 774

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) (No. 2) BILL.—Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 774

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Perth, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 774

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TUBERCULOSIS (ANIMALS) PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION BILL.—Petition from Perth, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 774

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).—Copy presented, of Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1905 by the Hydrographer [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 774

NATIONAL GALLERY (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Report of the Director of the National Gallery of Ireland to the Board of Governors and Guardians for the year 1905 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 774

SINKING FUNDS.—Account presented, of the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt, showing the amount received and applied in the year ended March 31st, 1906, in respect of the Old and New Sinking Funds [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 174] 774

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).—Copy presented, of Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India during the year 1904–5, Forty-first Number [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 175] 775

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to a proposed Colonial Conference in 1907 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table .. 775

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.—Account presented, of the Receipt and Expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act from January 1st to December 31st, 1904 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 176] 775

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill, and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158b] ; referred to the Committee on the Bill 775

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

ABOLITION OF COAL DUTY—REDUCTION OF CUSTOMS STAFF.—Question, Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness) ; Answer, Mr. McKenna 775

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood Bean (Tower Hamlets, St. Georges) ; Answer, Mr. Churchill 776

STAMPING OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOL TRUST DEEDS.—Question, Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 776

CASUALS AND OAKUM PICKING.—Question, Mr. Tillett (Norwich) ; Answer, Mr. John Burns 777

SALE OF THE DENNEHY ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 777

IRISH SEA FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Boland ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 777

PAYMENT TO RELATIVES OF PENSIONS OF INMATES OF IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.—Question, Mr. Sloan ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 778

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THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Haldane 779

ROYAL ARTILLERY.—Question, Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate); Answer, Mr. Haldane 781

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure in respect of the Workmen's Compensation Bill:—Mr. Compton Rickett; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Menzies. .. ..

Report to lie upon the Table.

Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. McKillop (*Armagh, S.*) 782
Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) 788
Mr. Charles Craig (*Antrim, S.*) 795
Mr. Sloan (*Belfast, S.*) 803
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 807
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 813
Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 818
Mr. Mooney (*Newry*) 823
Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (*Fermanagh, N.*) 824
The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange*) .. 830
Mr. James Campbell (*Dublin University*) 836
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 843
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.*) 845

The House divided:—Ayes, 244; Noes, 54. (Division List, No. 82.)

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law."—(*Mr. McKillop.*)

Debate arising.

And, it being after Five of the clock, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Ground Game Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next .. 851

CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGNERS.—Order [14th May] for presenting an Address for a Return relative thereto read, and discharged; and, instead thereof—

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (CONTRACTS).—Return ordered, "of all Contracts made in the United Kingdom for manufactured articles by the several Government Departments in the year ending the 31st day of March, 1906, either with contractors outside the United Kingdom or with contractors or agents who obtained the articles from abroad (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 315, of 1905)."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*) 852

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at seventeen minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 21st MAY, 1906.

Military Manœuvres Act, 1897.

His Majesty's answer to the Address of the 11th instant, delivered by the Lord Chamberlain (*V. Althorp*), and read as follows :—

"I have received your Address, praying that I will make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to your Lordships' House on the 22nd February last.

"I will comply with your advice." 853

Several Lords took the oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with : Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.] ; Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [H.L.].

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) ; London and South Western Railway ; London County Buildings ; Peterborough Gas ; Southampton Gas.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 853

Standing Orders Committee, Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Poole Corporation Water Bill ought to be dispensed with.

Read, and agreed to 583

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 835

Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [H.L.].—Commons' Amendments considered, and agreed to 854

Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2) Bill [H.L.] ; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.].—Leave given to the Select Committee not to sit again till Wednesday next 854

Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [H.L.]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [H.L.] ; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [H.L.] ; Rugby Subordinate School Bill [H.L.] ; now Rugby Lower School Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons .. 854

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill; Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill.—Brought from the Commons ; read 1^{a} ; and referred to the Examiners 854

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North Metropolitan Tramways Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 854

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^{a}."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

The First Lord of the Admiralty (*Lord Tweedmouth*) 854
Lord Weardale 855

On Question, Bill read 3^{a}, and passed.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 856

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious instruction.

Of teachers in schools at Nelson, etc.

Of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Nelson, etc.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 856

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Thirty-third Annual Report by the Accountant for Scotland to the Scotch Education Department 856

TRADE REPORTS : ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3589. Japan (Hakadate).
No. 3590. Spain (Bilbao).
No. 3591. Honduras (Omoa and Puerto Cortes).
No. 3592. Greece (The Cyclades).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 856

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.—Account of the receipt and expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act, from January 1st to December 31st, 1905. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 856

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill.—Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 856

THE TORPEDO-BOAT DISASTER.

Viscount Sidmouth 856
Lord Tweedmouth 857

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SHIPPING AND DISCHARGING FEES.

Lord Muskerry 857
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 858

IMPORTATION OF STORE CATTLE.

Lord Heneage 859

Moved to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, it is injurious to the agricultural interests of England and Ireland, as well as to the stability of the dead meat and live stock trade now carried on under the guarantee of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896, in the interest of the consumers, that this country should be kept in doubt as to the future policy of His Majesty's Government on the question of retaining the restrictions prohibiting the importation of store cattle into this country from Canada, notwithstanding the decided opinion of the Minister of Agriculture against any repeal of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896."—(*Lord Heneage.*)

The Marquess of Londonderry 865
Lord Burghclere 870
The Earl of Onslow 874
The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (*Earl Carrington*) 878
The Marquess of Lansdowne 882
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 886

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House adjourned at half-past Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 21ST MAY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Borough of Maidstone 888

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL (LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Havana United Railways and Regia Warehouses Bill [Lords]; Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords].; Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords]; Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 889

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PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 889

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [LORDS].—Read a third time, and passed, with Amendments 890

Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill (King's Consent signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed 890

Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill (Prince of Wales' Consent signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed 890

Bristol Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 890

London United Tramways Bill.—As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time 890

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [LORDS] ; Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment) Bill ; Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 890

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill (BY ORDER).—As amended, considered ; A clause added ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time 890

Hackney Electricity Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 891

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill ; Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 891

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Liverpool and the counties of Bedford, Buckingham, and Hertford," presented by Mr. Runciman ; supported by Mr. Burns ; read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 218] 891

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Cuckfield (Rural), Leek, and the Wanstead and Woodford Joint Hospital District," presented by Mr. Runciman ; supported by Mr. Burns ; read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 219] 891

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to,—Cathcart District Railway (Superfluous Lands) Order Confirmation Bill ; North Berwick Corporation Order Confirmation Bill ; Carlisle Corporation Bill, without Amendment. . . . .

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Thornton Urban District Gas Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to include Bribery amongst Extradition Crimes." [Extradition Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for the suppression of Betting in Streets and other public places." [Street Betting [Lords.]

And also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Crediton Gas Company; and for other purposes." [Crediton Gas Bill [Lords]. 891

Crediton Gas Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 892

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of law; From Aberystwyth (two); Addlestone; Ashby cum Fenby; Chorlton cum Hardy; Dudleston; Heaton Mersey; Holme in Cliviger; Hougham and Marston; Keevil (two); Knightsbridge; North and South Stoke; Patricroft; Scunthorpe (two); Tatham (two); Whitworth (two); and Wrawby (two); to lie upon the Table 892

Vagrant Children Bill.—Petition from Warminster, against; to lie upon the Table 892

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Army (Medical Department).—Copy presented, of Report for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 892

Education (Scotland).—Copy presented, of Thirty-third Annual Report by the Accountants for Scotland to the Scotch Education Department [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 892

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3589 to 3594 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 892

Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance).—Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XV. (Edinburgh, No. 6) (Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 174] 892

Education (England and Wales) (Non-Provided Schools).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd February; *Mr. Birrell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 175] 892

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

H.M.S. "Dreadnought."—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 893

The Naval Intelligence Department.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 893

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SUMMER UNIFORMS FOR RURAL AUXILIARY POSTMEN.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 894

CENTRAL TELEGRAPH STORE DEPÔTS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 894

COST OF NAVAL SHIPBUILDING.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 895

EARLY MORNING DELIVERY OF LETTERS IN THE CITY OF LONDON.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 897

PROMOTIONS TO HEAD POSTMASTERSHIPS.—Question, Mr. Nuttall (Lancashire, Stretford); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 897

SCHOOL BOARD FRANCHISE IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 897

EFFECT OF LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL POWER STATION ON INSTRUMENTS AT GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 898

GRANT TO JOHN BENNETT ON THE DENNING ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr); Answer, Mr. Bryce 898

GAME LICENCES IN KING'S AND QUEEN'S COUNTIES.—Question, Mr. Reddy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 899

PROSECUTIONS FOR TRESPASS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Reddy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 899

AMOUNT STANDING TO CREDIT OF THE IRISH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. Bryce 900

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES IN IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 901

REINSTATEMENT OF EVICTED TENANTS ON THE SHELTON ESTATE.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 901

BOYCOTTING INTIMIDATION, ETC., IN IRELAND. — Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 902

PAYMENTS TO THE IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 902

COST OF ARMY HORSES.—Question, Captain Kincaid Smith (Warwickshire) (Stratford-on-Avon); Answer, Mr. Haldane 904

TROOPS CAMPED IN THE NEW FOREST.—Question, Mr. Fiennes (Oxfordshire, Banbury); Answer, Mr. Haldane 904

CLOSING OF MOUNTED INFANTRY SCHOOLS.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Haldane 905

SAVING EFFECTED BY THE ABANDONMENT OF THE SURREY DEFENCES OF LONDON.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Mr. Haldane 905

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THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S LETTERS PATENT OF APPOINTMENT.—Question, Mr. Paul (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Haldane 906

CONSECRATION OF WAR DEPARTMENT CHAPELS.—Question, Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire); Answer, Mr. Haldane 906

NIGERIAN GRANT IN AID OF THE NORTH NIGERIAN REGIMENT.—Question, Mr. Cox (Preston); Answer, Mr. Churchill 906

MAPS FOR NATAL AND ZULULAND BLUE-BOOK.—Question, Mr. Walker (Leicestershire, Melton); Answer, Mr. Churchill 906

INCREASE IN ADMIRALTY PRINTING.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 907

BATTLESHIPS REMOVED FROM FIGHTING LINE SINCE JANUARY, 1902.—Question, Mr. Ridsdale (Brighton); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 907

NEWFOUNDLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO MAINTENANCE OF ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Cox; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 908

EXPENDITURE FOR PROVIDED AND NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Massie (Wiltshire, Cricklade); Answer, Mr. Birrell 908

ENACTMENT REPEALED UNDER SCHEDULE 2 OF THE EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Birrell 908

REMUNERATION FOR CLEANING SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 909

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ROSS-SHIRE SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 909

BREAKING UP OF FARMS IN THE ISLE OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 910

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FEES OF PUBLIC WORKS LOAN COMMITTEE.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Asquith 912

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GRANTS UNDER THE MARINE WORKS (IRELAND) ACT.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 915

CASE OF CONSTABLE HARTE, ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 915

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 916

OUTBREAK OF EPIZOOTIC LYMPHANGITIS AT WATERFORD.—Question, Mr. O'Shee; Answer, Mr. Bryce 917

COMPENSATION TO TENANTS ON EVICTION FOR IMPROVEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 917

SALE OF FARM OF JAMES CARROLL OF FIELDUFF.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 917

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REINSTATEMENT OF EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF MISS LLOYD OF BORRISNOE.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 919

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CONDITION OF ACCOMMODATION ON THE BALLINROBE AND CLAREMORRIS LIGHT RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 920

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COST OF WEST AFRICAN GARRISON.—Question, Mr. Cox; Answer, Mr. Haldane 921

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White Women in Chinese Compounds.—Question, Mr. Dobson (Plymouth), and Mr. Nussey (Pontefract); Answers, Mr. Runciman (for Mr. Churchill) 923

Flogging Natal Natives.—Question, Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answer, Mr. Runciman 923

Transvaal Gold Mines.—Question, Mr. Belloc (Salford, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 924

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Land Settlement in the Transvaal.—Questions, Sir John Dickson Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham); Answers, Mr. Runciman 925

Pietermaritzburg Shipping Conference.—Question, Mr. C. B. Harmsworth (Worcestershire, Droitwich); Answer, Mr. Runciman 926

Natal Rising—Trials of Ringleaders.—Questions, Mr. Lehmann (Leicestershire, Market Harborough), Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland), Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.), and Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, Mr. Runciman 927

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Natal Poll Tax Collection.—Question, Mr. Byles; Answer, Mr. Runciman 928

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Church Consecration in India.—Questions, Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire); Answers, Mr. Morley 929

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Mr. Hugh Watt.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 933

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FIREWOOD INDUSTRY AND CHEAP LABOUR.—Question, Mr. Hodge (Lancashire, Gorton); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 935

EX PARTE POLICE COURT APPLICATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 936

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—Question, Mr. Bottomley; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 936

RAILWAY PASSENGER DUTY.—Question, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire) 937

THE UNEMPLOYED.—Question, Mr. Thorne; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 938

POST OFFICE CHANGES.—Question, Mr. C. E. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 938

DISMISSAL FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. J. Ward; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 939

POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES AND VACCINATION.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 939

MAIL DRIVING CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 939

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THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) and Mr. Rees; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) .. 941

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THE LORDS' REJECTION OF THE ALIENS BILL.—Questions, Mr. J. Ward, and Mr. Paul (Northampton); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 943

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MR. JOHNSON'S DRUMKEERIN ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 947

IRISH LAND—SALES AT EXCESSIVE PRICES.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 947

UNTENANTED LANDS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 948

MORROGH BERNARD ESTATE, KERRY.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 948

NEWTOWNGORE EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 949

WEST AND SOUTH CLARE RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 949

CORK AND THE EXCHEQUER GRANT.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry; Answer, Mr. Bryce 950

MR. O'MEARA'S ABBEYVILLE ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Hogan (Tipperary, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 951

MAGUIRE ESTATE, COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Bryce 951

CHALLENGING OF JURORS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 952

LORD ASHBROOK'S KING'S COUNTY ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County); Answer, Mr. Bryce 952

OBSOLETE CROWN RENTS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh); Answer, Mr. McKenna 953

CORK AND COUNTY RAILWAY.—Questions, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.), Mr. John O'Connor, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.), and Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answers, Mr. McKenna 954

IRISH LOCAL TAXATION COLLECTION.—Question, Mr. John O'Connor; Answer, Mr. McKenna 956

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FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAY.—Questions, Mr. Power, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny), and Mr. John O'Connor; Answers, Mr. McKenna .. 956

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 957

THE SIGNALLING OF DIVISIONS.—Question, Mr. Byles; Answer, Mr. Speaker .. 958

SELECTION (POLICE AND SANITARY COMMITTEE).—SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged Colonel Williams from the Police and Sanitary Committee; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield) 959

NEW BILLS.

Education Acts Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903," presented by Sir John Brunner; supported by Sir William Anson, Mr. Burt, Mr. Butcher. Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Eve, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Masterman, Mr. George White, Mr. Whitley, and Mr. Yoxall; to be read a second time upon Monday, 18th June, and to be printed. [Bill 220] 959

Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill.—"To amend the Acts relating to Charitable Loan Societies in Ireland," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Bryce; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 221] 959

Town Holdings Bill.—"To give compensation to occupying tenants of Town Holdings for beneficial improvements," presented by Mr. Rowlands; supported by Mr. Channing, Sir Walter Foster, Sir John Brunner, Sir James Woodhouse, and Dr. Pollard; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd June, and to be printed. [Bill 222] 959

METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.*) 959

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to hold an inquiry respecting the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation in the streets."

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Gladstone and Mr. Herbert Samuel.

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.—"To facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to hold an inquiry respecting the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation in the streets," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 223.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Order for Committee read.

Mr. Stuart Wortley (*Sheffield, Hallam*) 961

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Education (England and Wales) Bill that they have power to deal separately with Part IV. (Council for Wales), and to report the same to the House as a separate Bill."—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) 963
Mr. Arnold-Forster (*Croydon*) 964
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 966
Mr. Clavell Salter (*Hants, Basingstoke*) 967
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 968

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 102 ; Noes, 388. (Division List No. 83.)

Mr. Samuel Roberts (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 975
Sir William Anson (*Oxford University*) 977

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Education (England and Wales) Bill that they have power to divide the Bills into two Bills, the one dealing with elementary education, and the other with endowments and other educational purposes."—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Mr. Birrell 978
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 979
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 980
Mr. Rawlinson (*Cambridge University*) 981
Mr. Burdett Coutts (*Westminster*) 984
Mr. A. J. Balfour 985
Sir Francis Lowe (*Birmingham, Edgbaston*) 988

The House divided :—Ayes, 107 ; Noes, 353. (Division List No. 84.)

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause :—

Mr. Laurence Hardy (*Kent, Ashford*) 994

Motion made, and Question proposed, That Clause 1 be postponed."—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 997
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) 998
Mr. Dillon 999
Sir Francis Lowe 1002
Mr. Carlile (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) 1002
Mr. Birrell 1003
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1003
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid.*) 1004
Sir William Anson 1005
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) 1007
Mr. Rawlinson 1007
Mr. Clavell Salter 1008
Lord Helmsley (*Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 1008

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 160 ; Noes, 335. (Division List No. 85.)

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1013

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 7, after the word 'and,' to insert the words 'after the first election of a local education authority which shall take place.'" —(*Mr. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell 1016
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 1017
Mr. T. M. Healy 1018
Mr. Lane-Fox (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash*) 1019
Mr. Carlile 1020
Sir W. Robson 1021
Sir Edward Clarke (*City of London*) 1022

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 134; Noes, 284. (Division List No. 86.)

Mr. Pike Pease (*Darlington*) 1029

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 7, Clause 1, to leave out the word 'January' and to insert the word 'April.'"—(*Mr. Pike Pease.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'January' stand part of the Clause."

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education (*Mr. Lough, Islington, W.*) 1029

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir William Anson 1029

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'eight,' and insert the word 'ten.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'eight' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Lough 1030
Mr. Laurence Hardy 1031
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 1031
Mr. Clavell Salter 1033
Mr. Wyndham 1034
Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 1035
Mr. Arnold-Forster 1035
Mr. Birrell 1036
Mr. Wyndham 1037
Sir William Anson 1038
Mr. Laurence Hardy 1039
Sir E. Carson 1039
Mr. Birrell 1040
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 1042
Sir William Anson 1042

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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 349 ; Noes, 171. (Division List No. 87.)

Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 1047

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'eight,' to insert the words 'or such later day as the Board of Education shall appoint in any district upon the application of the local education authority for the purposes of this section.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell 1049
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1049
Sir Wm. Anson 1050
Sir Francis Lowe 1050
Sir E. Carson 1051
Lord R. Cecil 1051
Mr. Wyndham 1052
Dr. Macnamara 1053

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 176 ; Noes, 354. (Division List No. 88.)

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an additional Annual Grant, not exceeding one million pounds, to be distributed among Local Education Authorities, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to make further provision with respect to Education in England and Wales, and of the remuneration and Expenses of the Commissioners appointed under such Act."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Committee report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow 1059

ALKALI, &c., WORKS [STAMP DUTY].

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of a Stamp Duty of Five pounds on Certificates of Registration in the case of Alkali Works and of Three pounds in the case of any other work in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to consolidate and amend the Alkali, &c., Works Regulation Acts, 1881 and 1892, and the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of salaries and remuneration and of expenses incurred in the execution of such Act."

Resolution agreed to 1059

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Alkali, &c., Works Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered to-morrow 1060

Irish Education (Afflicted Children) Bill.

Order for Second Reading read.

Objection was taken.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen,* S.) 1060

Bill read a second time and committed for to-morrow.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION BOARD (IRELAND).

Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (*Kerry, W.*) 1060
Mr. Hazleton (*Galway, N.*) 1062

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular:—Rule 34 (B), page 20, line 4, to leave out the words 'If only one language is taken it must be either Latin, French, or German.'"—(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.*) 1064
Mr. James Campbell (*Dublin University*) 1065
Mr. Boland (*Kerry, S.*) 1068
Mr. Wm. Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 1068
Mr. Dolan (*Leitrim, N.*) 1070
Mr. Bryce 1070
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1071
Mr. James Campbell 1071

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular:—

Rule 34 (B), page 20, line 4, leave out "If only one language is taken it must be either Latin, French, or German."

Resolved, That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular:—

Rule 43 (iv.), add "Domestic Economy, Physiology, and Hygiene" as "main subjects" for girls.

Resolved, That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular:—

Rule 61, page 26, line 1, at beginning, insert, "In Irish."—(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at a quarter after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 22ND MAY, 1906.

The Earl of Aylesford took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with : Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 1073

Great Eastern Railway Bill.—The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported, without Amendment 1073

Manchester Churches Bill [H.L.].—Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [H.L.]. North East Lincolnshire Water Bill. Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]. Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [H.L.]. Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Electric Supply) Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments 1073

Crellin's Patents Bill [H.L.].—Reported, without Amendments 1073

New Mills Urban District Council Bill.—The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments 1073

London and North Western Railway Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1073

Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1073

County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments 1073

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments 1073

Ascot District Gas Bill ; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill.—Brought from the Commons ; read 1 ; and referred to the Examiners .. 1073

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 1074

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill—Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners (No. 97) 1074

Marriages Provisional Order Bill—Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next (The Earl of Beauchamp). (No. 98.) 1074

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Friday next 1074

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Statement of the moneys expended on education under Part I. and Part II. respectively of the Education Act, 1902, by each local education authority for the year 1904–1905, and, so far as can be estimated, for the year 1905–1906, showing the amount provided from Exchequer grants and from local rates respectively, and in each case the amount of the rate in the £.

Statement as to the age at which compulsory education begins in certain foreign countries 1074

SOUTH AFRICA.—Customs Union Convention provisionally agreed to by the representatives of the South African Colonies at a Conference held at Pietermaritzburg in March, 1906. 1074

CEYLON.—Correspondence relating to an agreement for lease of pearl fisheries on the coast of Ceylon 1074

EMIGRATION.—Report on the Emigrants Information Office for the year ended December 31st, 1905 1074

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX).—Order made by the council of the county of Middlesex reconstituting the parliamentary polling districts in the county. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1075

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT.—University Court Ordinance No. XV. Edinburgh No. 6). Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 96) 1075

TRADE REPORTS: 1. ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3595. Portugal (Azores). No. 3594. Greece (Cephalonia and Zante). No. 3595. Italy (Sicily). No. 3596. Netherlands (Rotterdam) 1075

II. MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.—No. 650. Arms Industry of Liege 1075

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).—Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part I. General Report 1075

LONDON TRAFFIC.—Report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire and report as to the means of locomotion and traffic in London. Vol. IV. Appendices with Index. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie upon the Table 1075

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS (REGISTRATION OF PATENT AGENTS) BILL [H.L.].—Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next .. 1075

Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments. The Report of the Amendments to be received on Friday next; and Bill to be printed as amended (No. 99) 1705

Police (Superannuation) Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Friday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 100.) 1076

Criminal Appeal Bill [H.L.]—Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord Alverstone 1076
Lord Ashbourne 1086
Lord James of Hereford 1089
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 1091
The Earl of Halsbury 1095
Lord Ashbourne 1095
The Lord Chancellor 1095
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1095
Viscount Cross 1096
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Onslow*) 1097
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 1097

Moved, "That the further debate be adjourned"—(*The Earl of Halsbury*).

Agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [H.L.].—Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*The Earl of Crewe*).

On Question, Bill read 3^a.

The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 1098

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 10, to leave out the words 'No body corporate shall' and to insert the words 'A body incorporate may'; in line 11, to leave out the word 'unless' and to insert the words 'and may use the description of chemist and druggist or of chemist or of druggist if'; in line 15, to leave out the words 'nor unless' and to insert the words 'and if'; and in line 17, to leave out from the word 'business' to the end of the clause and to insert the words 'Subject as aforesaid, Sections 1 and 15 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, shall apply to a body corporate in like manner as they apply to an individual.'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 1099

Amendment moved—

> "In page 4, line 29, to leave out from the word 'Acts' to the end of the sub-section; in page 5, line 1, at the beginning of the sub-section to insert the words 'The person appointed to conduct the business in any shop under Sub-section (1) of Section 3 or Sub-section (1) of Section 4 of this Act may be a licentiate apothecary, and': in line 2, to leave out from '1890' to the end of the sub-section, and to insert the words 'is hereby repealed.'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 1099

Amendment moved—

> "In the Schedule, Part II., page 6, line 10, to leave out the words 'compositions prepared from' and to insert the words 'preparations of, excepting red poppy petals and syrup of red poppies (papaver rhœas).'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Juvenile Smoking Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Reay 1100

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Reay.*)

The Earl of Halsbury 1101
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 1102
Earl Beauchamp 1102
The Lord Bishop of Salisbury 1103
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1103

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and referred to a Select Committee.

SCHOOL REPAIRS.

The Marquess of Huntley 1103
The Earl of Crewe 1104
The Marquess of Londonderry 1105
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 1106
The Marquess of Ripon 1106

House adjourned at a quarter before Seven o'clock, to Friday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 22ND MAY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES (ORDER IN COUNCIL).—The Comptroller of the Household reported His Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 21st February, as followeth :—"I have received your Address, praying that I will make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to your House on the 21st February last. I will comply with your advice." 1107

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Barry Railway Bill [Lords]; Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords]; Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1107

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1108

Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [LORDS]; Holyhead Water Bill [Lords]; Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1108

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1108

Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill.—(King's Consent signified.) Bill read the third time, and passed 1108

Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [LORDS].—Not amended, considered; to be read the third time 1108

Manchester Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1108

Bury Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed .. 1108

Poole Corporation Water Bill.—Read a second time, and committed .. 1108

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1108

Lancashire Electric Power Bill.—Reported with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1108

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP G.).—Mr. ALFRED HUTTON reported from the Committee on Group G of Private Bills: That Mr. Brotherton, one of the

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Members of the said Committee, was not present during the sitting of the Committee this day.

Report to lie upon the Table 1108

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolution reported from the Select Committee.

"That, in the case of the Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Clause 49 be struck out of the Bill, unless the consent of the London and North Western Railway Company, as required by Standing Order 64, is proved before the Committee on the Bill. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with." 1108

Resolution agreed to.

Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [LORDS].—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 1109

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Amendments to—Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Matrimonial Causes Acts, 1857 and 1866, by extending the powers of the Court in relation to Maintenance and Alimony and leave to intervene, and to amend the Evidence Further Amendment Act, 1869." [Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the incorporation of a company for providing accommodation for Trans-Channel Traffic; and for other purposes." [Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise increased contributions to the Railway Clearing System Superannuation Fund Corporation by the railway companies and bodies contributing thereto." [Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Scottish Provident Institution Buildings, Limited, to pay interest out of capital on certain of their shares; and for other purposes." [Scottish Provident Institution Buildings [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Newport Harbour Commissioners; and for other purposes." [Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to transfer the Lower School of Lawrence Sheriff at Rugby to the Governors of the Lower School of Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby, constituted by this Act; and for other purposes." [Rugby Subordinate School Bill [Lords], now "Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords].]"

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And also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own undertaking, and upon that Company in conjunction with the Great Western Railway Company, the Caledonian Railway Company, the Great Northern Railway Company, and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company in relation to their respective joint undertakings; and for other purposes." [London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords].] 1109

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords]; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; Rugby Subordinate School Bill [Lords] now "Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords];" London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords]; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1110

PETITIONS.

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petition from Nantmelyn, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1110

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petition from Sion College, London, against; to lie upon the Table 1110

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Ashby Magna; Beckenham; Blackburn (two); Bromfield; Chantry; Dinas Powis (two); East Peckham (two); Forest Gate; Hanley Castle; Holy Island; Irlam (two); Little Carlton with Castle Carlton; Little Marsden (two); Mappleton (two); Penrith East; Port Eynon (two); Prittlewell; Rochdale; St. Leonards-on-Sea; Southowram (two); Staplehurst; Swallow; and Titchfield; to lie upon the Table 1110

Land Values Taxation, Etc. (Scotland)Bill.—Petition from Fordyce, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1111

South Africa (Constitutions of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies).—Petition of the Coloured People's Vigilance Committee, for enfranchisement of the coloured races; to lie upon the Table 1111

Vagrant Children Bill.—Petition from Tynemouth, against; to lie upon the Table 1111

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Fishery Board (Scotland).—Copy presented, of Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part I., General Report [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1111

London Traffic (Royal Commission).—Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire and report as to the Means of Locomotion and Traffic in London, Vol. IV. Appendices with Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1111

Polling Districts (County of Middlesex).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Middlesex, reconstituting the Parliamentary Polling Districts in the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 1111

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SOUTH AFRICA.—Copy presented, of Customs Union Convention provisionally agreed to by the Representatives of the South African Colonies at a Conference held at Pietermaritzburg in March, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1111

CEYLON.—Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to an Agreement for Lease of Pearl Fisheries on the coast of Ceylon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1112

EMIGRATION.—Copy presented, of Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended December 31st, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1112

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3595 and 3596 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1112

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 650 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1112

STREET BETTING.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address, April 11th; *Mr. Cave*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 179] 1112

PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES ACTS, 1879 AND 1884.—Address for "Return showing the working of the regulations made in 1886 for carrying out the Prosecution of Offences Acts, 1879 and 1884, with statistics setting forth the number, nature, result, and cost of the proceedings instituted by the director in accordance with those regulations, from the 1st day of January, 1905, to the 31st day of December, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 241, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel*) 1112

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IRISH BOYS JOINING THE ROYAL NAVY.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1114

CIVIL SERVICE HIRED ASSISTANT CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1114

IRISH EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1115

PROSECUTION OF MR. R. MURPHY FOR DOG LICENCE.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1116

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EDUCATION BILL—MINOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—Question, Mr. Charles Roberts (Lincoln); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1119

ARCHITECT OF HOUSES AT BATTERY PARK, STORNOWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1121

POLICE AND THE D'ANGELY CASE.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone 1122

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN ON THE GARDENS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness); Answer, Mr. Morley 1122

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KING'S ISLAND, LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1126

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INDIAN EXCISE ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 1127

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DEATHS THROUGH VACCINATION.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1131

HALFPENNY POSTAL RATES.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1132

BRISTOL TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1132

EDUCATION GRANTS.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady and Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answers, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1133

EXAMINATION IN WELSH SUBJECTS.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1133

PUBLIC PETITIONS.—Questions, Mr. Adkins (Lancashire, Middleton); Answers, Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) 1134

BARLINNIE PRISON WARDERS' GRIEVANCES.—Question, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. 1134

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CORK COUNTY COURT VALUER.—Question, Mr. William O'Brien (Cork); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1136

MOTOR FISHING BOATS FOR IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1136

DINGLE PIER.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1136

KILLYGORDAN (EVICTED TENANTS).—Question, Mr. McVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1137

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Galway Hosiery Factory.—Question, Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1138

Gethin Estate, County Sligo.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce.. 1138

Colonel Malone's Westmeath Estate.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1139

Fitzwilliam Estate, Wicklow.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1140

Constantine Maguire Estate, County Fermanagh.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1141

Cork City Railways.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.), Mr. Power; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 1141

Duties Paid by Ireland.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1144

Committals for Contempt of Court.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1144

Electoral Corruption.—Question, Mr. S. Collins (Lambeth, Kennington); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1145

The D'Angely Case.—Questions, Mr. Vincent-Kennedy (Cavan, W.), Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central), Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1145

Selection (Standing Committees).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had nominated the following fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]: Mr. Vivian, Mr. Nield, Mr. Hay, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Barran, Mr. Raphael, Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. C. E. Price, Mr. Charles Nicholson, Mr. Higham, Mr. Charles Duncan, Mr. R. C. Lehmann, Mr. Emmott Barlow, Mr. Hugh Law, and Mr. W. G. Nicholson.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported; That they had nominated the following fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Open Spaces Bill: Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. H. W. Lever, Mr. W. Pearce, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Channing, Mr. C. H. Wilson, Mr. Osmond Williams, Mr. Alexander Cross, Viscount Castlereagh, Mr. George Bowles, Mr. James Parker, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Roche, Mr. Howell Davies, and Mr. John Ainsworth.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported; That they had nominated the following fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. H. W. Lever, Mr.

W. Pearce, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Channing, Mr. C. H. Wilson, Mr. Osmond Williams, Mr. Alexander Cross, Viscount Castlereagh, Mr. George Bowles, Mr. James Parker, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Roche, Mr. Howell Davies, and Mr. John Ainsworth.

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill: Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Howell Davies.

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Dogs Bill: Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Percy Thornton.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1147

Public Trustee Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 227] 1148

Pilotage Bill.—Order for Second Reading upon Friday next read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1148

NEW BILLS.

Advertisement Regulation Bill.—"To authorise local authorities to make by-laws respecting the exhibition of Advertisements," presented by Mr. Hart-Davies; supported by Mr. Wyndham, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir Edward Clarke, Mr. Charles Schwann, Mr. Butcher, Mr. MacNeill, and Mr. Beale; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 224] 1148

Licensing Act (1902) Amendment Bill.—"To amend and extend the Licensing Act, 1902," presented by Mr. Stanley Wilson; supported by Lord Robert Cecil; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th June, and to be printed. [Bill 225].. 1148

Dublin Civil Bill Court Amendment Bill.—"To improve the procedure of the Civil Bill Court of the city and county of Dublin," presented by Mr. Healy; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 226] 1148

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) 1149

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'eight,' to insert the words, 'or such other later date as the local education authority may determine.'" —(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Mr. Lough, Islington, W.*) .. 1149
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) .. 1150
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) .. 1151
Mr. J. Chamberlain (*Birmingham, W.*) .. 1152
The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) .. 1157
Mr. Samuel Roberts (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) .. 1158
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) .. 1159
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) .. 1159
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) .. 1160
Sir William Anson (*Oxford University*) .. 1162
Mr. T. M. Healy .. 1164

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 114; Noes, 406. (Division List No. 89.)

Mr. Clavell Salter (*Hampshire, Basingstoke*) .. 1169

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 1, line 8, after the word ' eight ' to insert the words ' or such other later date as His Majesty in Council may determine.' "—(*Mr. Clavell Salter.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell .. 1171
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 1172
Sir E. Carson .. 1172
The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) .. 1174
Lord Morpeth (*Birmingham, S.*) .. 1175
Mr. Arnold-Forster (*Croydon*) .. 1177

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 190; Noes, 361. (Division List No. 90.)

Sir Henry Craik (*Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities*) .. 1184

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 1, line 8, after the word ' not ' to insert ' except with the sanction of the Board of Education.' "—(*Sir Henry Craik.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be inserted."

Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) .. 1187
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 1189
Mr. Lane Fox (*Yorkshire, W. R., Barkston Ash*) .. 1191
Mr. T. M. Healy .. 1192
The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (*Sir Henry Fowler, Wolverhampton, E.*) .. 1194
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) .. 1194
Mr. Carlile (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) .. 1195

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Earl Percy (Kensington, S.) .. 1196
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) .. 1197
Mr. Birrell .. 1198
Mr. J. Chamberlain .. 1198
Mr. Dillon .. 1200

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 171; Noes, 336. (Division List No. 91.)

Sir Henry Craik .. 1205

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, after 'is' to insert 'either supported by aid from the rates or is.'"—(*Sir Henry Craik.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell .. 1206
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 1208
Mr. Butcher (Cambridge University) .. 1211
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) .. 1213
Lord Willoughby de Eresby (Lincs, Horncastle) .. 1214
Dr. Macnamara .. 1215
Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) .. 1216
Sir William Anson .. 1216
Lord R. Cecil .. 1218
Sir Henry Craik .. 1218

Leave to withdraw the Amendment having been refused,

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Maddison (Burnley) .. 1219

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'authority' to insert the words 'And unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours nor at the public expense.'"—(*Mr. Maddison.*)

Question proposed: "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lough .. 1224
Mr. Wyndham .. 1227
Mr. Masterman (West Ham, N.) .. 1231
Mr. J. Chamberlain .. 1239

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, to omit the words 'during school hours nor.'"—(*Mr. J. Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

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Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald*)—put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

And it being Eleven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow 1244

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).—Return ordered, "relating to Imperial Revenue (Collection and Expenditure) (Great Britain and Ireland) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 233, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. John Robertson.*) 1244

Alkali, etc., Works Bill.—As amended, considered; an Amendment made to the Bill; Bill read the third time, and passed 1244

COMPENSATION (LICENSING).—Order [16th May] for an Address for a Return relative thereto, read, and discharged.—(*Mr. Courthope*) 1244

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 23RD MAY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sutton District Water Bill—Read a second time and committed 1245

Cork City Railways and Works Bill.—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1245

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL—Petition against: from Kings Cliffe; Melbourne; and St. Osyth; to lie upon the Table 1245

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petition against alteration of Law: from Compton Dundon (two); Coundon (two); East Keal; Esher; Finborough; Fretherne; Great Weldon and Little Weldon; Heanse; Hebden Bridge; Heywood (two); Ickenham; Lewes; Macclesfield; Milton (two); Monkwearmouth; Narberth (two); Newmarket; Pokesdown (two); Poplar; Prestwold cum Hoton; Stretford;

West Bromwich; Wood Top; Shelfanger and Winfarthing; Sparsholt; Swanmore (two); and, Thornhaugh cum Wansford; to lie upon the Table 1245

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES, ETC., BILL—Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1245

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.—Petition of the Metropolitan Radical Federation, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1245

LONDON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (HOURS OF POLL) BILL.—Petition from Bermondsey, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1245

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petition from Driffield, against; to lie upon the Table — 1246

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of January, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1246

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Eleventh Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1246

MERCANTILE MARINE (SIGHT TESTS).—Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the Sight Tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1905 [by Command] to lie upon the Table.. 1246

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Temporary Laws. Register of Temporary Laws for the First Session, Twenty-eighth Parliament, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, pursuant to the Report of the Select Committee on Expiring Laws in Session 1866; to be printed. [No. 180.] 1246

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

RIPON POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1246

LENDING OF CARTS BY MOUNTED RURAL POSTMEN.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1247

PURCHASE OF GRAZING FARM AT MILE HILL, COUNTY MAYO.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1247

WITHDRAWALS OF NAVAL CADETS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1248

EXTRA POLICE AT BALLYMACLURE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1248

APPOINTMENT OF MR. MICHAEL HOBBS AS RATE COLLECTOR AT BALLINASLOE.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1249

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS AT ROO.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1249

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PETITION OF FARMERS ON THE O'HARA ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1250

THE HOME GOVERNMENT AND IMMIGRATION IN AUSTRALIA.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1250

CANADIAN EMIGRATION MISREPRESENTATION.—Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1251

IRISH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1251

ROSCOMMON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1252

HALF-PENNY POSTAGE REGULATIONS.—Uuestion, Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1253

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 1253

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF INDIAN POPULATION.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, Mr. Morley 1254

TIBETAN INDEMNITY.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 1255

ALTHONE RIFLE RANGE—ACQUISITION OF LANDS.—Question, Mr. Hayden; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1255

NEW FOREST AS A TRAINING GROUND.—DISTURBANCE OF CATTLE AND LAWNS.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1256

HEAVY MILITARY TRAFFIC ON WICKLOW ROADS.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1256

IMPERIAL ORDNANCE STORES IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. D. Davies (Montgomeryshire); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1256

SMOKE NUISANCE FROM WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—Question, Mr. G. A. Hardy (Suffolk, Stowmarket); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1257

REMOVAL OF SUNKEN ROCK FROM GORTNASATE HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1258

SALE OF THE MARQUESS OF WATERFORD'S ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1258

EVICTED TENANTS ON THE LINDSAY ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Condon (Tipperary, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1258

IRISH LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT—AMOUNT TO CREDIT COUNTY DOWN.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1259

STAMP DUTY ON IRISH LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Liddell (Down, W.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1259

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Grant for Development of Irish Flax Industry.—Question, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1261

Fees of Public Vaccinators.—Question, Mr. J. Johnson (Gateshead); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1261

Weighers at the Felling Colliery.—Question, Mr. J. Johnson; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1261

The Police Commission—Evidence of Monsieur and Madame d'Angely.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1262

The Police Commission and the Police.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1262

Winton Post Office, Bournemouth.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1262

Extension of Hours—Irish Licensed Hotels.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Cherry 1263

The United States and the Importation of Hay and Straw from the Argentina.—Question, Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1263

Schools Transferred under the Elementary Education Act, 1870.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1264

Proposed Transfer of Summer Headquarters of the Punjab Government.—Question, Mr. T. Davies (Fulham); Answer, Mr. Morley 1264

Meat Contracts for Troops in Ireland.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1265

Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1265

Irish Land Purchase—The Blake-Foster Case.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Cherry 1265

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Canadian Mail Service.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.) and Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Mr. Churchill) .. 1266

Australasian Alien Legislation.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1266

Chinese Crime in the Transvaal.—Questions, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury) and Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answers, Mr. Runciman, for Mr. Churchill 1267

Great Britain and China.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottinghamshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Runciman, for Sir Edward Grey 1268

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The Congo.—Questions, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester), Mr. McKean (Monaghan, S.), Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) and Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answers, Mr. Runciman, for Sir Edward Grey 1269

Rev. E. Stannard's Case.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald; Answer, Mr. Runciman, for Sir Edward Grey 1270

Hague Conference.—Question, Mr. Byles; Answer, Mr. Runciman, for Sir Edward Grey 1270

Unemployed Workmen's Act Amendment Bill.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1271

Vaccination Statistics.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1271

School Attendance of Pauper Children.—Question, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell (Newington, Walworth); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1272

The Unemployed.—Questions, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.), Mr. O'Grady and Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1272

Irish Trade Returns.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.) and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, The Secretary of the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 1274

Messrs. J. & P. Coats, Limited.—Questions, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answers, Mr. Kearley 1275

Motor Bus Fatalities in the Walworth Road.—Question, Mr. L. Collins (Lambeth, Kennington); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1275

The Treasury and the Carmarthen Trade Dispute.—Question, Mr. Thorne; Answer, The Attorney General (Mr. John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1276

Motor Fishing Boats.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 1277

Fines and Penalties Office, Dublin.—Question, Mr. Meehan (Queen's County, Leix); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1277

Irish Land Commission—Appointment of Mr. Wilkinson.—Questions, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1278

Royal Irish Constabulary—Crimes Branch.—Questions, Mr. Meehan and Mr. Flynn; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1279

Fraudulent Trading Prosecutions.—Questions, Mr. Boland and Mr. Flavin; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1280

Irish Royal University.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1280

Royal University of Ireland—The Chancellorship.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1281

Boycotting and Crime Return for Ireland.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1281

Irish Councils Association.—Questions Mr. Lonsdale; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1282

Ardara (Donegal) Evicted Tenants.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1282

Leahy Estate near Cahirciveen.—Questions, Mr. Boland; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1283

Irish Import.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1284

Fitzwilliam Estate, Wicklow.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1284

Warden Estate, Sneem.—Questions, Mr. Boland and Mr. Flavin; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1285

Irish Teachers' Salaries.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1286

Instruction in Irish.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry (Cork County, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1287

Irish Dispensary Doctors' Salaries.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1287

Fitzwilliam Estate, Wicklow.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor and Mr. William O'Brien (Cork); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1288

Mountshannon Estate, County Limerick.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1289

Levers Estate, Limerick.—Questions, Mr. Lundon; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1289

Cashel Evicted Tenant.—Questions, Mr. Lundon; Answers, Mr. Bryce .. 1290

Moohane Evicted Tenant.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1290

King-Harman *v.* Hayes.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1291

Irish Land Sales—Joint Owners.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1291

Irish Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Department.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 129

Arklow Harbour.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1293

The Dunsandle Estate.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1293

Kerry Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1293

Rathdown Guardians Tea Contract.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1294

Dublin Police Circular.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny), and Mr. Swift MacNeill ; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1294

Irishmen and the Public Services.—Question, The Marquess of Hamilton (Londonderry) ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1296

Irish Labourers Acts.—Questions, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.) and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) ; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1296

North Kerry Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Flavin ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1297

Cork City Railway.—Questions, Mr. John O'Connor (Kildare, N.), Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) and Mr. T. M. Healy ; Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire) 1297

Irish Land Act Treasury Advances.—Question, Mr. Ginnell ; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1298

Roscommon Local Government Election Petition.—Questions, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.) ; Answers, Mr. McKenna 1299

Monaghan Post Office.—Question, Mr. O'Hara (Monaghan, N.) ; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 1300

Portadown Postman's Character Cleared.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh and Mr. Lonsdale ; Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1300

The Local Government Board and the Unemployed.—Questions, Mr. Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.) ; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1301

Irish Self-Government —Question, Mr O'Mara ; Answer, Sir H Campbell-Bannerman 1301

Derby Day —Questions, Mr Bottomley (Hackney, S) ; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1302

Religious Census of Prisoners —Question, Mr. Bottomley ; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.. 1302

Women and Local Government.—Question, Dr. Shipman (Northampton) ; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1302

Alien Pilots.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1302

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir William Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection ; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill :—Mr. Munro Ferguson ; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Morse.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported ; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and

Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Workmen's Compensation Bill :—Mr. Lloyd Morgan ; and had appointed in substitution :—Mr. Alexander Black.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1303

Solicitors Bill [Lords].—Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 228] 1303

Extradition Bill [Lords].—Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 229] 1303

Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [Lords].—Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 230] .. 1303

NEW BILLS.

Land Tax Commissioners Bill.—" To appoint additional Commissioners for executing the Acts granting a Land Tax and other Rates and Taxes, and to remove the qualification by estate required in the case of all such Commissioners, whether appointed under this or any previous Act," presented by Mr. McKenna ; supported by Mr. Herbert Lewis ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 231] 1303

Rights of Way Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to public Rights of Way," presented by Mr. Paulton ; supported by Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Abel Thomas, and Mr. Eugene Wason ; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 12th, and to be printed. [Bill 232] 1303

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Another Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 10, at the end, to add the words ' and unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours, nor at the public expense.' "—(*Mr. Maddison.*)

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

" To leave out the words ' during school hours, nor.' "—(*Mr. Chamberlain.*)

Question again proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (*Leicester*) 1306
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 1315
Mr. George White (*Norfolk, N.W.*) 1321
Mr. J. Chamberlain (*Birmingham, W.*) 1328
The Secretary to the Local Government Board (*Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury*) 1331
Mr. Butcher (*Cambridge University*) 1339
Sir W. J. Collins (*St. Pancras, W.*) 1341
Mr. Arnold-Forster (*Croydon*) 1345
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, W.*) 1348
Mr. Bonar Law (*Camberwell, Dulwich*) 1351
Sir Brampton Gurdon (*Norfolk, N.*) 1354
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1356
Mr. Helme (*Lancashire, Lancaster*) 1360
Mr. Hunt (*Shropshire, Ludlow*) 1361

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Samuel Evans*)—put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

DRIFT-NET FISHING (SCOTLAND).

Mr. Eugene Wason (*Clackmannan and Kinross*) 1363
Mr. Smeaton (*Stirlingshire*) 1366

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House, while recognising that no fixed net or engine should be placed in the River Forth or other rivers of Scotland, expresses its opinion that drift-net fishing should not be prohibited where fishing by net and coble is not possible or practicable."—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

Lord Willoughby de Eresby (*Lincolnshire, Horncastle*) 1368
Mr. Gulland (*Dumfries Burghs*) 1372
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 1374
Mr. Summerbell (*Sunderland*) 1377
The Secretary for Scotland (*Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire*) 1378
Mr. Weir (*Ross and Cromarty*) 1380
Mr. Morton (*Sutherland*) 1381

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MACEDONIA.

Mr. Lynch (*Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon*) 1382
Mr. Gooch (*Bath*) 1387

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House considers that further reforms are urgently required in Macedonia in the interest alike of the Christian and Mohammedan population, and is prepared to support His Majesty's Government in taking whatever steps are necessary to secure that end."—(*Mr. Lynch.*)

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick*) 1388

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, that this House considers that further reforms are urgently required in Macedonia in the interest alike of the Christian and Mohammedan population, and is prepared to support His Majesty's Government in taking whatever steps are necessary to secure that end.—(*Mr. Lynch.*)

Ground Game Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Friday. 1392

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : THURSDAY, 24TH MAY, 1906.

he House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the County of Carnarvon (Southern or Eifion Division), in the room of John Bryn Roberts, esquire (Judge of the County Court of Glamorgan.)—(*Mr. Joseph Pease*) 1393

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Thornton Urban District Gas Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 1393

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.. 1393

London United Tramways Bill (King's Consent Signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed. [New Title] 1393

Derby Gas Bill.—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 1393

Rochester, Chatham, and Stroud Gas Bill.—As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time 1393

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed] ; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow 1393

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed] ; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1393

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table

Bill to be read the third time To-morow. 1393

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Reported without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To morrow 1394

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow 1394

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.. 1394

Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill; Kettering Water Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1394

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1394

South Lancashire Tramway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords].—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1394

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Assurance Company Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 1394

North West London Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.. 1394

PETITIONS.

National Galleries of Scotland Bill.—Petition of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, for reference to a Select Committee; to lie upon the Table .. 1394

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill.—Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1394

East India and China (Opium Trade).—Petition from Worcester, for suppression; to lie upon the Table 1395

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; from Ambleside; Merthyr Mawr; and Salisbury; to lie upon the Table 1395

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of law; from Bedford (two); Condover (two); Corsham (two); Cuckfield; Darton (two); Davington; Heeve; Horfield; Ironville; Minster; and, Nailsea; to lie upon the Table 1395

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London Municipal Elections (Hours of Poll) Bill.—Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1395

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Suez Canal (Commercial, No. 4, 1906).—Copy presented, of Returns of Shipping and Tonnage passing through the Suez Canal 1903, 1904, and 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1395

Leeward Islands.—Copy presented, of Amended Prison Rule relating to Prison Officers' Fine Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1395

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Phibbs Estate, County Mayo.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1395

London Postmen's Pay.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1396

Adulterated Brandy.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1396

Soldiers and Vaccination.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1397

Captain Huntsman.—Question, Major Dunne (Walsall); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1397

Slavery in Zanzibar.—Question, Mr. J. W. Wilson (Worcestershire, N.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1398

Colonial Reports and Maps.—Question, Mr. Walker (Leicestershire, Melton); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1398

Island of Lewis.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1399

Irish Ordnance Survey.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1399

Survey Officer's Travelling Expenses.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1399

Municipal Employees' Holidays.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1400

Paddington Retail Meat Traders.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1400

Metropolitan Labour Yards.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1401

Bristol Postal Staff.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer Mr. Sydney Buxton 1402

Income Tax Assessments in Ireland.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1402

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INDIAN SUPERIOR POLICE SERVICE.—Question, Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Morley 1402

CAMPBELL ESTATE, CARLOW.—Question, Mr. Hammond (Carlow); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1403

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1403

BELFAST POLICE.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1404

NATIONAL TEACHERS' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1404

DUBLIN POLICE.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1404

ARMY ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1406

MILITIA ACCOUTREMENT.—Question, Mr. H. Beaumont (Sussex, Eastbourne); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1406

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

OSBORNE CADETS—INSTRUCTION IN NAVIGATION.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 1407

OSBORNE CADETS AND ENGINEERING.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1407

ROYAL NAVY SUPPLEMENTARY LIEUTENANTS.—Questions, Mr. Jowett (Bradford, W.) and Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. 1408

THE ARMY RE-ORGANISATION.—Questions, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport), Sir Charles Dilke (Forest of Dean) and Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1408

ARMY SERVICE CORPS.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 1409

MILITARY PRISONERS.—Questions, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answers, Mr. Haldane 1410

CHINESE COOLIES IN THE TRANSVAAL—APPLICATIONS FOR REPATRIATION.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.) and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Mr. Churchill) 1410

WAGES OF CHINESE COOLIES.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1411

THE ZULU REBELLION.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1411

LEINSTER REGIMENT—PETITION ON BEHALF OF MUTINOUS SOLDIERS.—Questions, Mr. Joyce (Limerick) and Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answers, Mr. Runciman 1412

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REPATRIATED COOLIES—PENALTIES FOR RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1412

UNEMPLOYED IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1413

THE PARTITION OF BENGAL.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) .. 1413

THE BARISAL DISTURBANCES.—Question, Mr. C. E. Schwann (Manchester); Answer, Mr. Morley 1414

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 1415

CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 1415

CHINA AND BRITISH TRADE.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1416

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1416

REGISTRATION OF DEATHS—CHICKEN POX AND SMALL POX.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1417

LEGISLATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT.—Questions, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.) and Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answers, Mr. John Burns 1417

LOCAL DISTRESS COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Seddon (Lancashire, Newton); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1418

REPORT ON THE UNEMPLOYED.—Question, Mr. H. J. Tennant (Berwickshire); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1418

SUNDERLAND DISTRESS COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1418

ROYAL COMMISSION ON MOTOR CARS.—Questions, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn) and Mr. H. J. Tennant; Answers, Mr. John Burns 1418

CALVERTON POSTMEN'S WAGES.—Question, Mr. Starkey (Nottinghamshire, Newark); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1419

LONDON JEWISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport); Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington) 1419

PARLIAMENTARY REFRESHMENT BARS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Lewis Harcourt, Rossendale) 1420

PATENT AGENTS.—Question, Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 1420

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FEES IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—Question, Mr. Arthur Stanley (Lancashire, Ormskirk); Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire) 1420

THE NEW FOREST.—Questions, Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answers, Mr. McKenna 1421

EX-CABINET MINISTERS' PENSIONS.—Questions, Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy), Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answers, Mr. McKenna .. 1421

COUNSEL'S RETAINING FEES.—Questions, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answers, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1422

CLIFFORD'S INN AND NEW INN.—Question, Mr. Lehmann (Leicestershire, Market Harborough); Answer, Sir John Walton 1423

SCOTTISH FISHERY BOARD.—Question, Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1424

SCOTTISH PROCURATORS FISCAL.—Questions, Mr. Morton; Answers, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs) 1424

CLEAGH EVICTED TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 1424

DR. O'BRIEN, OF ENNISTYMON.—Questions, Mr. Halpin and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1425

DUBLIN HIGH COURT APPOINTMENT.—Questions, Mr. Condon (Tipperary, E.) and Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1426

MINERAL RIGHTS IN IRISH LAND.—Question, Mr. Condon; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1427

POLITICAL ECONOMY IN IRISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1427

HUTCHINS ESTATE, BEREHAVEN.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1428

MR. KEARNEY'S ROSSMORE FARM.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1428

ROSSMORE EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1428

BIRD ESTATE NEAR BANTRY.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1429

IRISH ASSISTANT FEMALE TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1429

O'GRADY ESTATE, NORTH LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1429

CASE OF JAMES MCCANN.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1430

OVERFLOW OF THE LIFFEY.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1430

RECOVERY OF LAND ANNUITIES.—Questions, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1431

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HUNGERFORD AND CLORAN ESTATES, DUHALLOW, COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1431

IRISH FISHERY BOARD.—Question, Mr. Joyce; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1432

WESTPORT GUARDIANS AND THE REVEREND MR. HANNAY.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.) and Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1433

IRISH RAILWAY RATES ON GRASS SEED.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1434

MISS NICHOLSON'S SLIGO ESTATE.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1435

RICHMOND DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Questions, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.) and Mr. Flavin; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1435

INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY.—Question, Mr. Vincent-Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1436

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS IN COUNTY CAVAN.—Questions, Mr. Vincent Kennedy and Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1437

DRUMROE EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1437

EDUCATION GRANTS FOR IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1438

DUBLIN POLICE BAND.—Question, Mr. Liddell (Down, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1438

FITZWILLIAM ESTATE, COUNTY WICKLOW.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1439

IRISH CUSTOMS WATCHERS.—Question, Mr. Halpin; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 1439

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.—Questions, Mr. Cogan and Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answers, Mr. McKenna 1439

DUBLIN CITY REVALUATION.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1440

COUNTY COURT RAILWAY GRANT.—Questions, Mr. Edward Barry (Cork County, S.) and Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answers, Mr. McKenna 1441

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1441

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Open Spaces Bill: Mr. James Parker; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Glover.

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Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Mr. Parker; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Glover.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]: Mr. Kelly

Reports to lie upon the Table 1443

SUPPLY [9TH ALLOTTED DAY]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,053,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the expense of Victualling and Clothing for the Navy, including the cost of Victualling Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

**Mr. Bowles* (*Lambeth, Norwood*) 1444

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,043,200, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

Mr. J. Williams Benn (*Devonport*) 1449
Mr. Maddison (*Burnley*) 1450
Mr. Jenkins (*Chatham*) 1451
Mr. Arnold-Forster (*Croydon*) 1451
Mr. Lief Jones (*Westmoreland, Appleby*) 1453
The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee*) .. 1454

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £275,500, Medical Establishments and Services

3. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £14,700, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Martial Law, including the cost of Naval Prisons at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

Mr. Bowles 1456

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A. be reduced by £1,000." —(*Mr. Bowles.*)

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Mr. Jenkins (Chatham) 1458
Mr. Edmund Robertson 1459

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £165,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Educational Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis) 1461
Mr. Arthur Lee (Hants, Fareham) 1471
Mr. Edmund Robertson 1477
Mr. Arnold-Forster 1480
Mr. G. Croydon Marks (Cornwall, Launceston) 1482
Mr. Lambton (Durham, S.E.) 1483
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 1484
Captain Hervey (Bury St. Edmunds) 1487
Mr. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars) 1489

And, it being a quarter past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords] (By Order).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. W. H. Lever (Cheshire, Wirral) 1491
Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland) 1496

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word ' now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words ' upon this day six months.' "—(*Mr. William Lever.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' now ' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle) 1497

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Debate be now adjourned " —(*Mr. Arthur Henderson*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

Supply.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

May 24.]

4. £165,600, Educational Services.

5. £65,100, Scientific Services.

6. £426,600, Royal Naval Reserves.

7. £482,200, Miscellaneous Effective Services.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £351,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

Motion, by leave, withdrawn. 1498

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS VI.

8. £358,969, to complete the sum for Superannuation and Retired Allowances.

9 £122,644, Savings Banks' and Friendly Societies' Deficiencies.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next 1498

SUPPLY REPORT [26TH APRIL].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £602,700, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Customs Department."

Resolution agreed to.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,429,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Inland Revenue Department."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. William Rutherford (*Liverpool, West Derby*) 1499
Sir A. Acland-Hood (*Somersetshire, Wellington*) 1499
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.*) 1501

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Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 1501
Mr. McKenna 1501

Question put, and agreed to.

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS II.

3. "That a sum not exceeding £7,290 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council."

4. "That a sum not exceeding £25,243 be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission."

Resolutions agreed to.

5. "That a sum not exceeding £39,699 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907 for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor General."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Question put, and agreed to.

6. "That a sum not exceeding £5,589, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies.

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £65, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Mint, including the Expenses of Coinage."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £7,348 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Debt Office."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,430, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Public Record Office, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments."

Resolution agreed to.

May 24.]

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Establishment under the Public Works Loan Commissioners."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Wm. Rutherford 1503
Mr. McKenna 1504

Question put, and agreed to.

SUPPLY [17TH APRIL].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS I.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £31,800, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Houses of Parliament Buildings."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Wm. Rutherford 1505
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 1506
Mr. Theodore Taylor (*Lancashire, Radcliffe*) 1506
The First Commissioner of Works (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 1507

Question put, and agreed to.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £48,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings, and for the maintenance of certain Cemetries Abroad."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Question put, and agreed to.

3. "That a sum not, exceeding £8,400, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course

of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Expenditure in respect of Osborne."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. William Rutherford 1509
Mr. Harcourt 1510

Question put, and agreed to.

4. " That a sum, not exceeding £426,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Customs, Inland Revenue, Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, and certain Post Offices abroad, including Furniture, Fuel, and sundry Miscellaneous Services."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. William Rutherford 1510
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 1511
Mr. Harcourt 1512

Question put, and agreed to.

5. " That a sum, not exceeding £61,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens."

6. " That a sum, not exceeding £46,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Expenditure in respect of Royal Palaces."

7. " That a sum, not exceeding £317,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

Resolutions agreed to 1512

Motion made, and Question, " That this House do now adjourn "—(*Mr. Joseph Pease*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 25TH MAY, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation [H.L.].

Also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Waterford Corporation and Bridge.

And also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with: Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1513

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill.—Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next 1513

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill.—Commons Amendments considered and agreed to 1513

Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 1513

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments 1513

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.].—The order made on the 3rd instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged 1513

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire)—Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, that the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; the orders made on the 5th of March and 3rd of May discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next 1513

London and South Western Railway Bill; London County Buildings Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1514

Peterborough Gas Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed 1514

Southampton Gas Bill—Read 2^a, and committed for Tuesday next 1514

Newport Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1514

Alkali, etc., Works Bill.—Brought from the Commons 1514

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Manchester Corporation Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners 1514

Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [H.L.]; Milford Docks Bill [H.L.]; Mirfield Gas Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to .. 1514

Holyhead Water Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 1514

Thornton Urban District Gas Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 1514

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next .. 1514

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to order) 1514

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next 1515

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Read 3^a (according to order), and passed 1515

Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next 1515

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report, Statistics, etc., relating to continuation classes and central institutions (Scotland) 1904–1905 1515

COMMERCIAL No. 4 (1906) (SUEZ CANAL).—Returns of shipping and tonnage, 1903, 1904, and 1905 (in continuation of "Commercial, No 2, 1903") .. 1515

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3597. Morocco (Tangier).

No. 3598. United States (Boston).

No. 3599. France (Cherbourg) 1515

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (SCOTLAND).—Eleventh Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland, 1905 1515

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of January, 1906 1515

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SIGHT TESTS.—Report on the sight tests used in the mercantile marine for the year ended December 31st, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2558]).

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie upon the Table 1515

LEEWARD ISLANDS.—Amended prison rule relating to Prison Officers Fine Fund 1515

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Two Orders in Council, dated May 11th, 1906—Exempting from re-measurement in this country, Italian merchant ships, and revoking previous Orders in Council; fixing the engineering establishment to be maintained in future by the corporation of the Trinity House 1516

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACTS, 1878 AND 1889.—Two Orders in Council, dated May 11th, 1906—Approving new denominations of standard weights of twenty pounds, ten pound, and five pounds; fixing the fees to be taken by inspectors of weights and measures on the verification and stamping of each of the above-named weights 1516

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.—Order in Council, dated May 11th, 1906, increasing the quantity of certain fireworks which may be kept on registered premises 1516

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Two Orders in Council, dated May 11th, 1906, entitled—

The Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906.

The Federated Malay States Appeals Order in Council, 1906 1516

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870–1895.

Order in Council, dated May 11th, 1906, for giving effect to a treaty concluded between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua for the mutual surrender of fugitive criminals.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1516

Alkali, etc., Works Bill.—Read 1ª, and to be printed. (No. 101) 1516

Marriages Provisional Order Bill. [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Earl Beauchamp 1516

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Bill read 2ª.

THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS.

Lord Avebury 1517
Lord Bishop of Ripon 1523
Lord Sanderson 1529
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 1530

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Lord Weardale 1537
Lord Ellenborough 1538
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1539
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 1546

Colonial Marriages Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day read for the House being put into Committee.

Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

The Duke of Northumberland 1548

Moved, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to extend the Bill to include a declaration of the law relating to all marriages legal in the place in which they have been contracted, and recognised as valid in the United Kingdom."—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

The Earl of Jersey 1550
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 1550
Earl of Halsbury 1552
Lord James of Hereford 1553
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 1555

Instruction, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 :—

Lord Halifax 1555

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 20, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'provided also that nothing in this Act shall affect the obligations imposed on any clergyman by the laws ecclesiastical.'"—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

Viscount Halifax 1556
The Lord Chancellor 1556
The Marquess of Salisbury 1556

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Remaining clause agreed to, and Bill reported without Amendment to the House.

Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next 1557

Police (Superannuation) Bill.—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Tuesday next. 1557

House adjourned at Twenty-five minutes past Seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 25TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1557

Manchester Corporation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1557

Cheltenham Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time .. 1557

Edinburgh Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered; Amendments made. Bill to be read the third time 1557

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—As amended, to be considered upon Monday next 1558

Metropolitan Railway Bill; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords]; South Suburban Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.. 1558

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Read the third time and passed.. 1558

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1558

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the Port of Manchester," presented by Mr. Runciman; supported by Mr. John Burns; read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 233] 1558

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.. 1558

Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 1558

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 1558

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Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 1558

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 1559

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed 1559

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1559

Railway Bills (Group 1).—Mr. Compton Rickett reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That, to suit the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at Two of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 1559

PETITIONS.

East India and China (Opium Trade).—Petition from Greenock, for suppression; to lie upon the Table 1559

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; From Cotterstock; Easebourne; Fillongley; Huntingdon; Moresby (two); Sandown; Sowerby Bridge (two); and, Yarm; to lie upon the Table 1559

House-Letting (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Falkirk, against; to lie upon the Table 1559

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.—Petition from Hucknall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.. 1559

Vagrant Children Bill.—Petitions against; from Canterbury and Hayfield; to lie upon the Table 1559

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Prosecution of Offences Acts, 1879 and 1884.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address May 22nd; *Mr. Herbert Samuel*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 183] 1560

Education (Scotland).—Copy presented, of Reports, Statistics, etc., on Continuation Classes and Central Institutions (Scotland), 1904–5 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1560

Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, fixing the engineering establishment to be maintained in future by the Corporation of the Trinity House [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 1560

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MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, exempting from re-measurement in this country Italian merchant ships, and revoking previous Orders in Council [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1560

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870 TO 1895.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, for giving effect to a Treaty concluded between the United Kingdom and the republic of Nicaragua, for the mutual surrender of fugitive criminals [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1560

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Copies presented, of two Orders in Council of May 11th, 1906, entitled (1) The Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906, and (2) The Federated Malay States Appeals Order in Council, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1560

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, increasing the quantity of certain fireworks which may be kept on registered premises [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1560

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACTS, 1878 AND 1889.—Copies presented, of two Orders in Council of May 11th, 1906: (1) approving new denominations of standing weights of twenty pounds, ten pounds and five pounds and (2) fixing the fees to be taken by Inspectors of Weights and Measures on the verification and stamping of each of the above-named weights [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1560

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3597 to 3599 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1561

JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL (LETTERS PATENT).—Copy presented, of Letters Patent appointing Thomas Milvain, Esquire, K.C., to be Judge Advocate-General [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1561

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

TELEGRAPH LINE TO SKERRIES, SHETLAND—CONTRIBUTION TO COST BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Sydney Buxton 1561

DAMAGE BY MOTOR TRAFFIC—SUGGESTED TAX.—Question, Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1562

EDUCATION BILL—INEFFICIENT VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork Co., Mid.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1562

INSANITARY HOUSES IN BELFAST.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1563

REINSTATEMENT OF EVICTED TENANTS—APPLICATION OF JOHN HAURIHAN.—Question, Mr. Sheehan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1563

BELFAST DISTRICT POLICE INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1564

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—First Report, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [Bill 182] 1564

HOUSE OF COMMONS (PROCEDURE).—Second Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evdence, brought up and read.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 181] 1564

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Sloan (*Belfast, S.*) 1565
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 1570

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Nannetti (*Dublin, College Green*) 1571
Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) 1575

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Nannetti.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 1580
Mr. Harrington (*Dublin Harbour*) 1589
Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (*Fermanagh, N.*) 1590
Mr. Bottomley (*Hackney, S.*) 1593
Mr. Gordon (*Londonderry, S.*) 1597
Mr. Samuel Young (*Cavan, E.*) 1600
Mr. S. Collins (*Lambeth, Kennington*) 1602
Mr. A. Roche (*Cork*) 1604
Mr. Barrie (*Londonderry, N.*) 1605
Mr. Findlay (*Lanarkshire, N.E.*) 1606
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 1607
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.*) 1613

Mr. SLOAN rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided; Ayes, 222; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 92.)

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 243; Noes, 46. (Division List No. 93.)

Main Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 244; Noes, 50. (Division List No. 94.)

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c."—(*Mr. Sloan.*)

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Mr. Crean 1623
Mr. Nannetti 1625

Mr. Sloan again rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes 234 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 95.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc."

The House divided :—Ayes, 229 ; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 96.)

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 1633

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 1633

Ground Game Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment ; read the third time, and passed 1633

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [May 22nd], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next 1633

Workmen's Compensation [Expenses].—Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the expenses of the Secretary of State, and of the remuneration and expenses of medical referees and arbitrators incurred under any Act of the present session to consolidate and amend the Law with respect to compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment, and of compensation to workmen employed by or under the Crown in pursuance of such Act."

Resolution agreed to 1634

And, it being half-past five of the clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at half after Five o'clock till Monday next.

End of Table of Contents to Vol. CLVII.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

SIXTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1906.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 11*th May*, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 1 Bill) [H. L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proced further with the Bill: The Orders made on 26th March last and the 3rd instant discharged: Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill [H.L.]; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee not to sit on Monday next until Twelve o'clock.

Clacton Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Haslingden Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]. Committee to meet on Tuesday next.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill. Read 2^a, and committed.

Millwall Dock Bill. Read 3^a, and passed.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1.) Bill [H.L.]. Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [H.L.]. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

(EXPLOSION OF GUNPOWDER AT 9, DAWSON STREET, DUBLIN).

Report to the right hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion of gunpowder which occurred on the premises of Messrs. Trulock, Harriss, and Richardson, Limited, of 9, Dawson Street, Dublin, on the 22nd March 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Account of the receipts and expenditure of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, for the year ended 31st December 1905, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE).

Orders made by the council of the county of Lancashire re-dividing the Eccles and Ormskirk Parliamentary divisions of the county into polling districts.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Orders made by the following councils and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within their respective boroughs—Borough council of Stockton-on-Tees; Metropolitan borough council of Camberwell.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

JOURNAL COMMITTEE.

Report from, that the One hundred and thirty-seventh Volume of the Journals (5th Edward VII., 1905), with an Index, was ready for delivery; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and the said Volume ordered to be delivered in the same manner as the preceding Volumes of the Journals have been delivered.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

Report of Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., LL.D., the delegate of His Majesty's Government to the International Medical Congress held at Lisbon, 19th to 26th April 1906.

NATAL (EXECUTION OF NATIVES).

Petition to His Majesty in Council of the twelve natives recently executed in Natal, and the affidavit in support of the petition and the judgment.

NORTH SEA FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS.

Reports of the British delegates attending the meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 1903, 1904, and 1905, and reports and correspondence relating thereto. (In continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 1313], 1903).

TREATY SERIES No. 4. 1906.

Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Independent State of the Congo modifying the agreement signed at Brussels, 12th May, 1894. (See "Treaty Series, No. 15, 1894.") Signed at London, 9th May, 1906.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom, during the three months ended

31st December, 1905: together with Reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the railway department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into. Part II. Reports on accidents.

EXPLOSIONS.

(Explosion at Abbey Mills Chemical Works, Stratford-by-Bow, Essex)—Report to the right hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Captain J. H. Thomson, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion of nitro-glycerine in waste acid which occurred at the chemical works of Messrs. F. W. Berk and Company, Limited, at Abbey Mills, Stratford-by-Bow, Essex, on 15th January, 1906.

SEED POTATOES SUPPLY (IRELAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

MILITARY MOBILISATION.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I rise, in accordance with the Notice standing in my name on the Paper, to ask the Under-Secretary for War, within what time, after the receipt of notice that their services would be required to repel an actual or threatened hostile landing on the south or east coast, could the so-called "commands" of those districts be ready to take the field fully equipped in all respects; what would be the total strength of each of these forces, and its composition; and also the number, calibre, and description of up-to-date guns attached to each force. I have no intention at present of making any remarks upon the Question. I simply put it.

*__THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH)__: My Lords, I am afraid I am unable to give the noble Earl the information he desires. The noble Earl asks that I should publish what our military authorities conceive to be the enemies' possible strategy, and the detailed plans for defeating the same. I am advised by every one of the military advisers of the Army Council that to make such details as are desired by my noble friend would be opposed to the public interest. I regret extremely that we cannot give this information to our friends without communicating it to our potential enemies In adopting this attitude I am following the traditions of former Governments. In a debate on a somewhat similar question which was raised by my noble friend on July 17 of last year,† my predecessor in office, Lord Donoughmore, explained that it was inexpedient to publish the details of mobilisation schemes, whether relating to the field Army or to defences. Questions of armament also, Lord Donoughmore stated, are treated as confidential. This principle is still accepted by the Army Council, and, as a breach of it would be involved by any real Answer to my noble friend's Question, I am very sorry to have to say that I cannot give him the details he desires.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I have a Motion down for Monday next upon a cognate question, and as my noble friend has declined to give information which I think not only your Lordships but those who pay £29,000,000 a year in taxation ought to know, I shall venture between this and then—I have already got some of the information—to get, in the rough, the information which my noble friend declines to give us to-day, and I hope to give it to the House on Monday.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [H.L.].

Amendments reported (according to Order.)

LORD EBURY: My Lords, I rise to move that Clause 4 of this Bill be amended by leaving out, in line 16, all words after "business" to the end of the subsection, and by inserting the words contained in my Amendment, namely—

> "And any body corporate carrying on such business or use the description of chemist and druggist and failing to comply with the provision of this section shall be guilty of an offence under Section 15 and 17 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and liable to the penalties therein mentioned."

Although I am not accustomed to take part in your Lordships' discussions, I have ventured to put this Amendment forward for your consideration because the matter dealt with in the clause is one of which I have some knowledge, and the clause as it at present stands, even without the Amendment of which notice has been given by the noble Earl in charge of the Bill, does not appear to me to be consistent with public advantage. The effect of it will be to debar all future corporate bodies who may establish a chemist's business from using the description 'chemists and druggists' which all such bodies doing such business have hitherto been free to adopt.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlix., 833–4.

The formation of companies for the purpose of selling drugs and poisons, although of much remoter origin, has acquired great development during the last thirty-five years for the reason that ordinary retail chemists have charged prices so high that companies well provided with capital and dealing with material of the highest class have been enabled to undersell them and still to secure a satisfactory result from their capital. This has naturally been unwelcome to the retail chemists, of whom what is called the Pharmaceutical Society is composed, and for many years past they have been endeavouring, by promoting Bills in both Houses and by more or less peaceful persuasion in the Lobbies, to induce the Legislature in some way or other to put a spoke in their rival's wheel. Finally, they have had the good fortune, so far, to enlist the sympathy of the noble Earl opposite and to induce him to insert this clause into a Bill which has little else of a contentious nature.

I think the adoption of the first eight lines of this clause is expedient in order once for all to settle by statute the position of companies in this matter, which has hitherto rested upon a common law basis, and although I have never heard of any inconvenience arising from the distinction, I think the noble Earl, if he will permit my saying so, is quite right in putting an end to it. But the latter part of the clause does a great deal more than that. The very next sentence after the eight lines which I propose to retain, by invoking certain sections of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and by reversing the legal decision pronounced in your Lordships' House in 1880, deprives all corporate bodies of the right to the designation of chemists and druggists, and although the last sentence restores that right, it is only in the case of existing companies, and we know that even in their case they are threatened with a time limit. In the public interest I claim a right to the designation for all companies which do the business and for all time.

It seems to me that if the business of a chemist is conducted in accordance with the first part of this clause, which affords complete guarantee for the public safety, it is a matter of no public importance at all whether the owner is an individual, a partnership, or a joint stock company, and as the designation of chemist and druggist is necessary in order to attract the attention and conciliate the confidence of actual and potential customers—and I infer that fact from the very keen desire which the Pharmaceutical Society have to secure a monopoly of the title—I think the title should be as open to one class of owner as another, having regard to the fact that they all employ adequate skill and knowledge in the conduct of their business. The interest of the public lies in free and open competition, and I submit that what is proposed in the latter part of this clause is not only protection but protection in an injurious form.

I heard it said, I think by the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, in Committee on this Bill that individual chemists are entitled to special consideration because they have to pass a qualifying examination before they can exercise their trade. But the chemist who serves a company has to pass the qualifying examination just the same. He brings with him a position which he has acquired thereby, and by this clause he would be compelled to forfeit a part of that position for the benefit of his more fortunate fellow students who happened to have money enough to set up in business for themselves. Moreover, I may remind your Lordships that although an ordinary chemist manipulates poisons and drugs, he depends for the great bulk of his trade upon the sale of a variety of preparations, in the compounding of which he has no hand, and of a vast assortment of miscellaneous articles of which, if I were so disposed, I could give your Lordships some diverting examples. Moreover, there are a number of trades in addition to that of a chemist which call for great skill and great nicety in their operation, and if it is perceived that distinctions between various classes of traders can be extracted from the Legislature upon any ground less cogent than public safety and public advantage, what is to prevent others from following the example of the Pharmaceutical Society, and where is the argument to come from for limiting those restrictions to the chemists' trade?

One word, my Lords, upon the addition which I propose to make to the first eight lines of this subsection, an addition which I think affords fair evidence that I do not wish to place corporate bodies in any position of privilege as compared with individuals. The provision in the first eight lines of the clause, while affording ample safety to the public, also affords a safeguard to the corporate bodies which adhere to it, but, by the sentence which I propose to add, in case of the slightest infringement they become subject to the penalties in Clause 15 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, which reinforced by Clause 17, which makes those penalties recoverable by summary proceedings, are such that no corporate body, unless administered by lunatics, would venture to infringe.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 4, page 3, line 16, to leave out from the word 'business' to the end of the subsection and to insert the words, "and anybody corporate carrying on such business or use the description of chemist and druggist and failing to comply with the provision of this section shall be guilty of an offence under sections 15 and 17 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and liable to the penalities therein mentioned."—(*Lord Ebury.*)

*THE EARL OF LICHFIELD: My Lords, I should like to support the Amendment which has been moved by my noble friend Lord Ebury. As the clause stood when this Bill was before the House on Second Reading, companies might call themselves chemists as they had always done before, but in Committee the noble Earl in charge of the Bill altered the clause in such a way that in future it will be impossible for companies or corporate bodies to call themselves by that name. From time immemorial they have been able to use this designation when following this trade, and a case was fought out in the Law Courts in 1880, when the House of Lords decided that it was competent for companies to use the name of chemists under the Pharmacy Act of 1868.

I am, of course, well aware that the Pharmaceutical Society claim that the title should be a personal one, and should only apply to those who have passed the necessary examinations. But, on the other hand, I want your Lordships to bear in mind that under the Act of 1868 and the Bill that is now before you every company is obliged to keep a qualified manager in every shop that it owns, and therefore the safety of the public is as well preserved with companies as it is with individuals. Now, why should it be sought to restrict companies from using the name which they had been accustomed to use? Great sums of money have been invested in these businesses on the strength of the existing law, and I would ask what harm the companies have done in the excercise of the rights they have enjoyed? Has it been injurious to the public interest that they should use the name chemists? I should be glad to hear from my noble friend who is in charge of this Bill whether he thinks that such is the case, because, if not, I cannot understand the object of the clause as it stands? Its effect is to restrict companies from using the title to which they have been accustomed, and it therefore injures them in the public estimation and interferes with the money that they have sunk in their businesses, believing that they were acting under the law.

I must say that I think the Bill as it nows stands is really a vexatious restriction of trade. It is not at all in the public interest that a privileged class should be established, and that the great companies should be debarred from using the name under which they carry on their trade. I hope your Lordships will agree to support the Amendment, believing as I do that it is in the interests of the public that companies and corporate bodies should not be discredited in this way. As Lord Ebury has stated, it is notorious that the result of the existence of these companies has been to give the public an opportunity of getting drugs and such articles far cheaper and fresher than they were ever able to do before, and healthy competition has been thus promoted in the interests of the public. I may say that if my noble friend's Amendment is not carried I shall when the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council moves his Amendment to restrict existing companies to the use of the name 'chemist' for seven years, move an Amendment substituting the term twenty-one years for seven years.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I only desire to intervene in this discussion for one moment. As your Lordships know, the Bill was drafted by myself when I had the privilege of occupying the position now filled by the noble Earl opposite, and consequently so far as its principles are concerned I naturally support the Bill as it stands. But there is one point to which I should like to draw attention. Clause 4 is to a very great extent drawn on the same lines as my own Clause 4, but my clause contained the words "or use the description." I notice that that phrase has been left out by my noble friend, and I am consequently at a loss to know how to reconcile the four lines which have been added at the end. I cannot but think that according to the present drafting of the clause, a company may call themselves chemists but they are not allowed to carry on the business. I may be wrong. Perhaps the noble Earl will explain.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, I think perhaps it will be convenient if I intervene at this stage, and I will begin by dealing with the point raised by the noble Marquess who has just sat down. The effect of the omission of the words "use the description" from Clause 4 is, of course, to do what my noble friend opposite, Lord Ebury, does not wish to be done. It prevents these companies from employing the title of chemists or chemists and druggists in conducting their business, but I think no question arises on the drafting point raised by the noble Marquess. There is nothing whatever in the last four lines of the clause which prevents companies from carrying on their business—of course, that is the very last thing we should wish to do—although a seven years limit would be placed upon their power of using the description. I think the noble Marquess can be quite satisfied on the point of drafting.

The Earl of Lichfield.

The House will have gathered from the speeches of my two noble friends that the Bill as it stands and the Amendment moved by Lord Ebury represent two different attempts to come to a conclusion upon a contention which has been in existence for many years between the Pharmaceutical Society, representing the chemists, and the important companies who deal in poisons and drugs. It seems to your Lordships that this is rather a small matter. You may be disposed to consider it almost a storm in a teacup, or perhaps a storm in a gallipot would be a more appropriate phrase, but I can assure you that by those who are interested in this trade the matter is regarded as one of very great importance. Since this subject was last before the House I have had the advantage of seeing a great many gentlemen who have argued with great ability both sides of the question, and I have also received from all parts of the country a great number of written communications on the subject. Although I fully agree that the matter is not one that primarily concerns the public, it is one which is regarded as exceedingly important by the different parties engaged in the trade.

Perhaps it will be most convenient if, in making these remarks, I also deal with the Amendment which I shall move if the noble Lord's Amendment is not adopted by the House, and which gives seven year's grace to the companies. The effect of Lord Ebury's Amendment will be that all companies may in future employ the terms reserved under the Pharmacy Act to chemists, provided, of course, that they fulfil the conditions of the Act by employing qualified men in conducting their business. The effect of the Bill as it stands, with the addition of my Amendment, will be that those particular terms will be reserved to chemists, although, of course, there will be no bar to a company stating in its advertisement or labels that it employs qualified chemists, or using the name of its qualified manager with the term "chemist" or "pharmaceutical chemist," as the case may be, in its advertisement. It is interesting to know that in the case to which Lord Ebury alluded, which decided the right of companies to trade in poisons, the society was called the London and Provincial Supply Association, but their labels bore the name of the individual chemist and druggist who conducted their business, who was a small shareholder and a qualified man. It certainly appears to me that so long as the companies have the right of stating that they employ chemists they are not very greatly damnified by being forbidden to use the term chemists as their own description.

The history of these terms is as follows. The first Act on the subject was passed in 1852, and this confirmed a Charter which had been gived to the Pharmaceutical Society in the year 1843. Under that Charter nobody was allowed to use the title pharmaceutical chemist or pharmaceutist who was not registered. But in 1868 it was made unlawful for any one to keep open shop for the sale of poisons or assume the title chemist, druggist, pharmaceutist, or dispensing chemist or druggist, unless he was a pharmaceutical chemist or a chemist and druggist under the Act. Since that time no alteration of importance has been made in the law. Practically since 1868 the companies of whom my noble friends opposite are the champions have come into existence. The noble Lord who spoke second said that from time immemorial companies had had this power. My impression is that the companies only came into existence at the time when he and I were together at school, and before that period this particular question did not in practice arise at all. Since that time these companies have gone on and flourished. They have been admirably conducted. I have not a word to contradict in the praises which have been uttered by noble Lords opposite of the manner in which the companies have conducted their businesses. I believe they have been of distinct service in creating a very healthy competition, and I have no doubt to some extent in lowering the price of drugs.

The argument which the Pharmaceutical Society use is this. They say that this Act of 1868 conferred upon them a distinct series of titles which they have gained always at some personal expense to themselves and by undergoing a fairly stiff examination. They regard the title as an absolute appanage of the individual, and they say that although it is quite proper that the title should be used by a company in connection with the name of the people they employ, it ought not to be used in connection with the name of a man who is not a chemist himself, or with the name of a company who are not themselves chemists and have not passed the examination. On the other hand, the companies point to their excellent public record, and they also urge the argument which was used by my noble friend opposite, Lord Lichfield, that if the public safety is secured by the employment of trained chemists in the shops and places of business where the companies conduct their affairs the public has no further interest in the use of the title, and it is purely a sort of domestic matter between the rival interests of tradesmen. Those are the two arguments, and therefore the point at issue is simply this: Is a chemist an ordinary tradesman, like a butcher, baker, or candlestick maker, or is he to some extent in the position of a man who has taken a degree, and therefore alone in the position to use the title which accompanies that degree? That is the sole and perfectly simple point at issue.

I admit there is a great deal to be said on both sides, and it took me some time to arrive at a decision on the subject, but, on the whole, I have arrived at the definite conclusion that these titles under the Act of 1868 are personal, that they are to some extent in the nature of a degree or qualification, and that they ought not, therefore, to be attached to any name except that of the man who has actually earned them. If that conclusion is reached it destroys the two principal arguments of the noble Lords opposite, because, if the title is a personal matter, you clearly are not entitled to use it merely because you employ people who have earned it. For instance, a gentleman who brings up boys for the Army—an Army coach—must not call himself a master of arts in his advertisement merely because he engages gentlemen who are masters of arts to teach the boys. It is a personal title, and he is not empowered to use it.

Then, again, as to the strong argument that the public security is all that matters. All titles of this kind are given for the object of securing the public. The title of solicitor is simply and solely given in order to secure the public. It is not a title of honour or a decoration. Equally, of course, no firm who employs solicitors would speak of themselves as being solicitors even if they had solicitors in their office. People take exceedingly great pride in the possession of these titles. The title of pharmaceutical chemist is on a more humble scale than many other titles earned by examination, but those who earn it do not like to see it coupled with the names of people who have not been through the mill which they have, and have not earned the distinction, for it undoubtedly is a distinction, by examination. There is one other practical consideration, and it is this. We have been told that an enormous injury will be inflicted upon the companies if they are not allowed to use the title of chemist and druggist. I think it was Lord Ebury who said that customers would be guided in the shops which they patronised by the fact that the title of chemist and druggist was used rather than that of drug store or dealer in medicine. I find it very difficult to believe that. I should have thought that actual customers would be guided by the quality of the goods they bought, the civility they received, and by the considerations which make people choose a particular shop to buy goods at; and, as regards prospective customers, I should have thought that anybody intending to deal at what is always likely to be popularly called chemists' shops or stores would be much more attracted by the general appearance of the place, by the obviously businesslike manner in which the shop was carried on, as is the case with many of these companies, than by any name that he saw written up over the door. Personally, if I were going to buy anything in a chemist's shop, I would very much rather go to one of these brilliant stores, where I should be sure to get a fresh article, than to perhaps a frowsy shop with the name chemist over the door. I do think, therefore, that the injury which these companies say they will receive by the loss of these titles is exaggerated out of all possible proportion.

On the other hand, they will no doubt suffer in a different way, and my further Amendment is designed to meet that. They have in many cases, and in one case in particular, adopted the title of chemists on their shop fronts, and if this Bill is passed as it stands those shop fronts would have to be altered. They have also, in some cases, engraved the title on syphons and bottles, and in some cases they have in store a great number of labels containing the title which would then be forbidden. That, to my mind, gives them a clear claim for a considerable time during which they can put together a moderate sinking fund—for it need not be very large in relation to the whole business—which would enable them to meet the cost of changing at the end of the seven years, and they would no doubt see that their stock of labels was printed with a view to their running out at the fixed period. Consequently, it is my intention to propose this seven years limit. I do not wish to anticipate any discussion which may take place on this Amendment if it is moved, but I think it perhaps better to say at this stage that I do consider the term of twenty-one years, which my noble friend Lord Lichfield announced his intention of moving, altogether too long. I cannot think of any precedent for any legislature of the kind, and therefore I should be obliged to oppose him. I have named a period of seven years because it seemed to me a reasonable one. As to the Amendment now before the House, I am afraid I must adhere to the Bill as it stands.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: My Lords, when this Bill was before your Lordships in Committee, I ventured to call the attention of the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council to the Amendment which he then expressed his intention of moving on Report, to the effect that the use of the name chemist and druggist by companies should be restricted to a period of seven years only. I did so mainly because of the hardship which I felt sure would be inflicted upon existing companies by such a limitation. I have since been informed that there is a company in existence which has as many as 320 shops in different parts of the Kingdom, which employs more than 4,000 people, and which has a capital of £1,300,000, and they estimate that by the alteration in the law which the noble Lord's Amendment would effect they would lose, on account of their expenditure in signs on shop fronts, and in syphons and other materials on which their name has been placed, a sum of between £30,000 and £40,000. That, I venture to submit to your Lordships, is a fine of a very considerable amount to impose upon a body which, as the noble Earl has just told your Lordships, is doing a most admirable and useful work for the benefit of the public at large.

The noble Earl has said no more than I believe to be due to these companies as to the work they have done in enabling the public, and especially the poor, to obtain such necessaries as drugs at a far cheaper price than they were able to obtain them at before, and to obtain them in a fresher condition; and therefore I am quite sure your Lordships would not desire for a moment to do anything that would be unfair to existing companies or that would impose such a fine upon them as I have just described. The Amendment now before your Lordships' House raises a larger and wider issue. It raises the whole question, not only whether existing companies should be allowed to maintain their present business, but also whether future companies should be permitted to enter into the same business. The noble Earl who has just sat down has referred to the past history of legislation upon this subject. I have had some concern with it myself, and perhaps I may venture to allude to it. The Act of 1868, which I think was the governing statue in this matter, certainly forbade, in accordance with previous legislation, the use of the title chemist and druggist by anybody who was not qualified by the Pharmaceutical Society's examination. But that Act also forbade, as the noble Earl has stated, any person not so qualified from keeping open a shop. In accordance with what he has admitted to be the public need, the noble Earl does not intend by this Bill to prevent these companies from keeping upon shops in the future.

*The Earl of CREWE: Hear, hear.

*Viscount St. ALDWYN: Quite so. That would not be a proposition which would commend itself either to this House or to His Majesty's Government. What the noble Earl does is to allow them to keep open shop, but to forbid their using after a certain date the title chemists and druggists. In other words, it is now proposed that a company carrying on a trade lawfully and to the advantage of the public shall not be able to call itself by the proper name applicable to that trade. Could there be a greater absurdity in legislation? It is even more absurd for this reason, that an individual—a single rich man—opening, say twenty or thirty shops and employing a qualified assistant in each shop, would be entitled to call himself a chemist and druggist although a company would not be allowed to use this title.

*The Earl of CREWE: Only if he were a chemist.

*Viscount St. ALDWYN: I am advised that the restriction would only apply to companies and not to individuals.

*The Earl of CREWE: That is not our intention.

*Viscount St. ALDWYN: What I object to is that when it has been proved to the satisfaction of everybody, including His Majesty's Government, that these companies have done good work, an attempt should be made to injure them in the public estimation and in the carrying on of their business in the future by refusing to allow them to use their proper name. What is the history of this matter? I know it because, when I was a Member of the other House, I was approached by certain constituents of mine on the subject. It was clear that they desired to prohibit companies altogether from carrying on competition with pharmaceutical chemists. I said I thought that a monstrous proposition. Then they said "Will you compel every director of such company to be a pharmaceutical chemist?" I said I thought that was little less than monstrous. The Pharmaceutical Society has been endeavouring throughout to promote legislation, the effect of which would be to secure a trade monopoly so that they would be able to raise, to their own benefit and to the public injury, the prices of their goods. Can anything of that sort be possibly supported by a Government pledged to free trade, supported by the electors of this country largely because they are pledged to free trade? Is it possible that, being obliged to allow existing companies to carry on this business, they will attempt to stab them as it were in the back by aiding the protectionist designs of the Pharmaceutical Society? I can only say that if Lord Ebury presses his Amendment to a division I shall gladly support him.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: My Lords, the view I take upon this matter is that the name of a chemist, like that of a firm, is a trade name, and a well-established name must be a great advantage to every firm. There is one well-known firm of chemists which was established in 1688. It is quite possible that, if inquiry were made, it would be found that there is no member now in that firm bearing the name by which it is known. It would be very hard, where a chemist left an only daughter, that she would be deprived of appointing a qualified assistant to carry on the business for her and retain the old-established name, and I understand that this right would not be affected by the Bill. But if a person not being a chemist may own a shop and keep up the name, I do not see why a company should not have the same right. It seems to me that the essence of the matter, so far as the public is concerned, is that the people who dispense drugs and medicines should be properly qualified. I do not therefore see why the benefit of an established trade name should be taken away. We are told that the Bill would not affect a private trader, but only a company. I should like to know why that distinction is drawn.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, this question is one which might very fairly be debated on one side or the other, but I cannot help thinking that my noble friend behind me is right when he treats the title of chemist as a personal and not as a general title. The members of these companies, excellent as is the work which they are doing, are not all chemists in the proper sense of the term, and it seems to me that it is a misuse of the title to allow a body which is not composed of chemists to use that particular designation. That is the whole question before us. Is it right that this should be treated as a title which can be taken up by a body of people who have not passed the examination and who are not in the recognised position of chemists and druggists, or is it not more for the security of the public that it should be confined to persons who are qualified by examination and whom the public know to be entitled, by those means, to its use?

The noble Viscount opposite has quoted a case in which he says the loss to the particular company concerned would be very much indeed. We all know that these estimates are not always to be relied upon. Those who are concerned in matters of this kind very naturally estimate their losses, before they incur them, very high indeed. My noble friend the Lord President recognises this loss to a very considerable extent, and he gives them seven years in which they may make their preparations for the change which he desires to bring into effect. The number of years is, no doubt, a question for discussion, but twenty-one years seems to me to be far too long. In my opinion seven years would meet the real claims of these companies in this respect. It is far better that a name which rests on examination should be confined to those persons who have undergone that examination.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, there is no need for me to add anything to what has been so admirably said by the noble Viscount behind me with regard to the effect of this Bill, but the noble Marquess opposite has reiterated a point which, I think, requires some comment. It is that the title of chemist is a personal title attached to a particular person carrying on the business and to whom the business belongs, and that it is not, therefore, applicable to a company, even although in every one of their shops there is a regular qualified chemist. Is it the case that this title is really a purely personal title? Clause 3 of this Bill provides that the provisions of Section 16 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, which enable the executor, administrator, or trustee of the estate of a deceased pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist to continue his business so long as such business is *bona fide* conducted by a duly qualified assistant, shall be construed as enabling such executor, administrator, or trustee to carry on the business if, and so long only as in every premises where the business is carried on, the business is *bona fide* conducted by a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist. Therefore, as I read the clause, an executor, administrator, or trustee, without being a pharmaceutical chemist at all himself, could carry on the business merely on the ground that it belonged to a pharmaceutical chemist who had since died. The real effect of the Bill, therefore, is to prevent a company or corporate body from calling themselves chemists while it permits an individual who is not a chemist in certain circumstances to do so. These large firms which have been in existence for some years have carried on their business in an admirable manner; so much so that they have attracted the public, who now look upon these large companies as a necessity of the times. It is not only in their interests that we ask the noble Earl to reconsider his suggestion, but in the interest also of the public. A very large number of petitions have been signed by customers using these shops who are satisfied with the way in which they have been carried on and wish them to continue with the same advantages as to the use of the title. Why should the intended disabilities be placed on these companies? So long as the public have the security that in every shop there is a fully qualified chemist, I do not see why a company or association of individuals who are permitted by law to carry on the business of chemists should not also be enabled to use that title in connection with that business.

*The Earl of CREWE: I am, of course, not entitled to any reply, but, as a matter of explanation, in answer to the noble Lord who has just sat down, I may say that if he thinks this Bill as it stands does not prevent the executors of any particular chemist from using the name of that chemist, with the word "chemist" attached, I shall be perfectly happy to add to the Bill words which will make it perfectly clear that that is intended. The title is intended to be a personal one. I certainly do not propose that executors should be able to carry on the business under a particular name, with the word "chemist" attached, if that chemist does not actually exist.

On Question, "Whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Bill," their Lordships divided. Contents, 32; Not Contents, 38.

CONTENTS.

Loreburn, L (*L. Chancellor.*)
Crewe, L. (*L. President.*)
Ripon, M. (*L. Privy Seal.*)

Manchester, D.

Northampton, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Russell, E.

Althorp, V. (*L. Chamberlain*)

Burghclere, L.
Castletown, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Coleridge, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Elgin, L. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)
Farrer, L.
Fitzmaurice, L.
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*) [*Teller.*]

Haversham, L.
Lyveden, L.
Newton, L.
O'Hagan, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Sefton, L. (*E. Sefton.*)
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Weardale, L.
Winterstoke, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Marlborough, D.

Bath, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Salisbury, M.

Camperdown, E.
Cathcart, E.
Cawdor, E.
Ducie, E.
Fitzwilliam, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Jersey, E.
Lauderdale, E.
Lichfield, E. [*Teller.*]

Mayo, E.
Waldegrave, E.

Churchill, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
St. Aldwyn, V.

Alverstone, L.
Belper, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Digby, L.
Ebury, L. [*Teller.*]

Ellenborough, L.
James, L.
Lawrence, L.
Mount Stephen, L.
Poltimore, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough*)
Rosmead, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sanderson, L.
Teynham, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Wenlock, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the Clause," agreed to.

LORD LAWRENCE moved that the provisions of the Bill should be applied to Ireland. He explained that the object of his Amendment was to restore the Bill to the position in which it stood when it was introduced into their Lordships' House. So far as he could make out, the principal reason why Ireland was excluded from the scope of the Bill was that the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, at whose suggestion the clause applying the Bill to Ireland was struck out, contended that there were adequate facilities already for agriculturists to get the necessary poisons. That this was not the fact was obvious when he stated that there were 130 districts in Ireland where no registered trader empowered to sell these poisons existed. Indeed the law had been persistently broken, and unregistered persons had sold these poisons without any penalties being enforced against them. The Cattle Traders and Stock Owners' Association, as well as the Dublin County Council and other bodies, had passed resolutions in favour of the Bill's applying to Ireland, the only opponents to that course being the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, who at present had the monopoly. Under the Bill extra facilities were given to farmers and stock raisers in England, Scotland, and Wales for obtaining the compounds required in agricultural pursuits, and there was no justifiable reason why they should be withheld from Ireland

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 7, and to insert the the following clause. 7. This Act, except sections three and four thereof, shall apply to Ireland subject to the following modifications. (*a*) For references to the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, or either of them, there shall be substituted reference to the Poisons (Ireland) Act, 1870, the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, and the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, Amendment Act, 1890, and for references to particular provisions of the first mentioned Acts shall be substituted references to the corresponding provisions of the last-mentioned Act, and in particular for the reference to Schedule A. to the Pharmacy Act, 1868, shall be substituted a reference to Schedule A. to the Poisons (Ireland), Act, 1870, and for the reference to section two of the Pharmacy Act, 1852, shall be substituted a reference to section sixteen of the Pharmacy Act, (Ireland), 1875. *b*. For the reference to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, there shall be substituted a reference to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. *c*. For references to Orders in Council by His Majesty there shall be substituted references to Orders in Council by the Lord Lieutenant. *d*. Section seventeen of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875 Amendment Act, 1890, shall apply where the persons keeping open shop are a company.' "—(*Lord Lawrence.*)

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE opposed the Amendment on the ground that the circumstances in Ireland left no need for the application of the Bill. He ventured to think that the noble Lord had pursued a rather unusual course in moving this Amendment at the present stage, especially as he offered no opposition to his (Lord Donoughmore's) Amendment in Committee excluding Ireland from the Bill. The Departmental Committee upon whose report the Bill was founded took no evidence in regard to Ireland. He believed this was a case in which Ireland was already very much better governed than England. The English system was quite simple. Under the Act of 1868 no one could sell poisons of any kind in England unless he was a registered chemist. It was felt that this was inconvenient in regard to the sale of poisons for agricultural purposes. But this had been recognised in Ireland fifteen years ago, and an Act was passed in 1890 giving the Pharmaceutical Society power to license persons who were not chemists to sell poisons for agricultural purposes only. There were at the present moment 1,500 of such licensed persons in Ireland, and he held that the requirements of the public were, therefore, quite satisfied. The persons licensed to sell poisons for agricultural purposes averaged 45 per county, which, as their Lordships would realise, was a large number. He claimed that nearly every town and village in Ireland of any importance had a person now living in it empowered to supply the wants of farmers in this direction. There was no machinery in the Bill which would be applicable to Ireland, and he did not see how any machinery could be evolved by which the Pharmaceutical Society in Dublin could work hand in hand with the local county councils. It was necessary that these poisons should only be handled and sold by trustworthy people, and he was afraid that a power to license in the hands of two bodies would lead to confusion, and it would be impossible to prevent the powers falling into improper hands to the danger of the public.

THE EARL OF MAYO hoped that the Amendment would be accepted. Ireland was an agricultural country, and it was essential that farmers and stock raisers should have proper facilities for obtaining drugs and compounds required for the cure of sheep scab and other diseases among cattle. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland had their own particular monopoly at heart in this matter; and he thought some weight should be given to the opinions of the Irish Cattle Traders and Stock Owners' Association, the Dublin Society, and the Board of Agriculture, all of which bodies were in favour of the provisions of the Bill applying to Ireland. The noble Earl had said that there were 1,500 people in Ireland empowered to sell poisons required for agricultural purposes, but what was that number among a population of 4,000,000 mostly engaged in agriculture? It was indispensible to modern sheep-farming that there should be ample facilities for obtaining these poisons. It could not be said that these facilities existed to anything like the requisite extent in Ireland. There were many stretches of country in which there was neither a pharmaceutical chemist nor a registered druggist to be found. He therefore hoped His Majesty's Government would accept the Amendment.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I must ask leave to explain the position in which I find myself in relation to the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Lawrence. As your Lordships are aware, in the Committee stage I agreed to omit the clause including Ireland within the operation of this Bill. I did so at the request of the noble Earl opposite, Lord Donoughmore, and I endeavoured to make it clear that I took that course not at all on the merits of the case, but because I did not consider we had sufficient information at our disposal as to the needs of Ireland in this particular matter. As the noble Lord had said, Irish witnesses were not examined before the Departmental Committee appointed by the late Government, and that, no doubt, gave fair grounds for suspending judgment for a time on this particular point.

Since then I have been in communication with a good many gentlemen taking both views in Ireland, and the Irish Department have also collected information on the subject and have arrived at the conclusion that Ireland ought to be included. The number of people qualified to sell these poisons in different parts of Ireland is about 1,300, but of these 543 reside in the six county boroughs — Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, and Londonderry—and not much sheep dipping goes on in those cities. It is obvious that the number really available to meet the needs of the farmers is less than appears. I am told that in the whole province of Connaught there are only sixty-two persons authorised to sell agricultural poisons, and that, I think, must involve a shortage in the case of articles which are often wanted at very short notice. The Agricultural Department, therefore, have arrived at the conclusion that Ireland ought to come within the operation of the Bill.

The reason which I confess weighs with me more than any other is one of a different kind. It is notorious that these agricultural poisons are sold by hundreds of people who are not registered at all. It has not been the practice to prosecute these unauthorised sellers, and in the few cases where they have been prosecuted it has been the custom of the Lord-Lieutenant of the day to remit the fines which have been imposed. Any one can see that that is an unsatisfactory state of things. It does not add to popular respect for the law to know that an unauthorised trade of this kind is going on, winked at by the police and not strongly discouraged by the authorities at Dublin Castle.

I confess that I did not contemplate that this matter would come up again in this House, and therefore I should have felt in any case debarred, in spite of the information which has carried conviction to my mind, from reintroducing it here, but I have not the least doubt that it would have been introduced in another place. Therefore I do not consider myself called upon to offer any opposition, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, to the Amendment before the House. Though, as I say, I did not feel justified in bringing the matter forward myself, yet if the noble Lord goes to a division I shall certainly support him by my vote in the Lobby.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said that Ireland was included in the Bill which he drafted, but he received information afterwards to the effect that it was considered advisable to exclude Ireland. After what had been said by his noble friend, Lord Mayo, who spoke with great knowledge of the agricultural needs of Ireland, he thought it would be wise that the Bill should extend to that country. There seemed to be a difference of opinion on this point among noble Lords who represented Ireland, but as the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, after carefully considering the whole matter, had came to the conclusion that the Bill should apply to Ireland, he would advise his noble friends who opposed the Amendment not to go to a division.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next; and to be printed as amended. (No. 82.)

MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT, 1897.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to this House on the 22nd February last"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth*)—agreed to, and ordered accordingly. The said address to be presented to His Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENTS BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD LOREBURN): My Lords, this is a Bill to amend the Matrimonial Causes Acts, 1857 and 1866, by extending the powers of the court in relation to maintenance and alimony and leave to intervene. It deals with minor matters connected with Divorce Court practice. In Committee I shall move to strike out the third section, which deals with the giving of evidence by parties in the Divorce Court. I think this is not a provision which should proceed until it has been further considered. The last clause is to allow persons charged with adultery to be able to intervene for the purpose of protecting their character, which they cannot do now. I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

EXTRADITION BILL. [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, the object of this Bill is fully explained in the preamble, which recites that a Convention has been concluded between His Majesty and the President of the United States for including in the list of crimes on account of which extradition may be granted certain offences, and amongst others bribery. The law in this country does not enable us to include bribery among extradition crimes, and this Bill is introduced to give effect to the Convention.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack is quite correct in saying that this Bill is necessary in order to give effect to the Convention entered into between the late Government and the Government of the United States. The latter Government very greatly desired that bribery should become an extraditable offence, and after much negotiation the terms of an arrangement for that purpose were settled.

LORD ALVERSTONE: I think the Bill will require some consideration in

Committee. I doubt whether the mere inclusion of the word bribery would effect the purpose.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Under the terms of the Agreement it is made quite clear that the extradition of a fugitive may not be claimed unless the offence which he has committed is an extraditable offence in both countries. Therefore, a person could not be extradited unless the offence committed in the United States was one for which he was liable to criminal punishment under the law of this country.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: This Bill was very carefully prepared by the late Lord Chancellor, and I think he is the last person to go wrong on a matter of drafting. But if the noble and learned Lord thinks that an Amendment is required to make the Bill effect its purpose, we will certainly consider it.

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 3ª.—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: It has come to my knowledge that some offence has been given by the Amendment which I moved to Clause 5 in Committee, providing that the public trustee should be appointed as additional trustee on the application of any trustee or beneficiary in any trust in which a solicitor is acting, or has acted, in the double capacity of solicitor and trustee. I wish to say that I had not the slightest intention of reflecting on the whole body of solicitors. I did, in fact, say that I felt sincerely grateful to some of them for good advice given to me in times of difficulty, and that several of those solicitors to whom I felt grateful are still alive. But the papers, in reporting what I said, did not put in that qualification. I now move to alter the words inserted in the clause to "any trust in which any person is acting in the capacity of trustee, and also in any professional capacity."

Amendment moved—

In Clause 5, page 6, line 24, to leave out the words 'a solicitor is acting, or has acted in the double capacity of solicitor and trustee', and to insert the words 'any person is acting in the capacity of trustee, and also in any professional capacity.' ")—(*Lord Ellenborough.*)

*LORD DAVEY: I would venture to ask your Lordships to consider whether this clause is necessary at all. There is ample opportunity in other clauses of the Bill for the appointment of the public trustee as an additional trustee whenever that may be necessary, and on application being made to the court for the purpose. The circumstance to which the noble Lord has drawn attention might very well be brought forward as a reason for exercising the power of appointing the public trustee as an additional trustee, but it appears to me that the clause as it stands, even with the Amendment, is far too drastic, because it puts it in the power of any single beneficiary, however small his interest may be, to call upon the court to appoint the public trustee as an additional trustee, and to throw upon someone, very likely the solicitor trustee, the onus of showing why the appointment should not be made. It would not be enough to say that the creator of the trust—the testator—had desired that his own family solicitor should be on the trust to guide his inexperienced sons in the management of the trust property. It would not be enough to show that the solicitor trustee was a gentleman of undoubted reputation and integrity. I take it that under this clause you must show something more than that. The onus is thrown on those who support the arrangement which the testator himself has made for the execution of his trust. I sympathise to a large extent with the feeling which has dictated the noble Lord's Amendment, but I venture to think that, while meeting one possible evil, he has introduced a clause of such stringency as possibly to lead to great inconvenience, and to the disturbance of arrangements made by testators for the management of their business. It is, moreover, a clause which will be understood to cast some imputation on that body of gentleman to whom reference has been made. I should like, therefore, to move that Clause 5 be omitted altogether.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, the clause as it was amended in Committee was understood to give offence to a body of men on whom no one wishes in any way to reflect, but as it is proposed to be amended now it comes to this, that if one of the trustees is acting not only in his capacity as trustee but in his professional capacity—that is to say, is discharging the duty of a trustee, and also that of a professional man—then in those circumstances any person who is beneficially interested in the trust may apply that the public trustee shall be added as security, and unless the court thinks that in the interest of the beneficiaries it is undesirable he should be added, he is, by his consent, added. I am satisfied that the clause is simply designed as a precaution and safeguard for persons in a peculiarly helpless position. I therefore agree to the Amendment now before the House. As to the omission of the clause altogether, as suggested by Lord Davey, I would prefer that the clause should remain as it is proposed to be amended. There is, it is true, power under the other clauses of the Bill for the court to appoint the public trustee as additional trustee, but this clause has a point in it inasmuch as it indicates the rules which the court ought to pursue.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved, "To leave out Clause 5"—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass"—(*The Lord Chancellor*).

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at half-past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

Lord Davey.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 11th May, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

London and South Western Railway Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill, reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon Table, and to be printed.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

North East London Railway Bill, Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill, Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Milford Docks Bill [Lords]. Reported with Amendments [Amended Title]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1).

Mr. COMPTON RICKETT reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, May 15th, at eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Edinburgh Corporation Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill. Ordered, that the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee on the London County Council (General Powers) Bill of Session 1905 be referred to the Committee on the Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill of this Session.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

They have agreed to Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of Bury to construct additional tramways within and beyond the borough; and for other purposes." [Bury Corporation Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) and to make further provisions with reference to the undertaking of that Company; to confer further powers upon the Castleblayney, Keady, and Armagh Railway Company; to extend the time limited by The Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Act, 1900, for the completion of works and the purchase of lands; and for other purposes." [Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [Lords].]

Bury Corporation Bill [Lords], Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions of the Mining Association of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Balgonie; Birley Woodhouse; Blairadam; Blairhall; Bowhill; Buckhaven; Cowdenheath and Raith; Denbeath; Gorllwyn; Hill of Beath; Kelty; Lassodie Mill; Lumphinnans; Methil District; Rosebank; Snydale; Townhill; Wellagreen; Wellwood; and, Werga; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Sydenham, against, to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL RELIGIOUS TEACHING.

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Addington (two); Affpuddle with Tonerspuddle; Alfreton; Barming (two); Bickner with Hucking; Bootle (three); Brandesburton; Burnley; Calton (two); Chapelthorpe (two); Cliffe at Hoo (two); Clifton Reynes; Crawley (two); Cuxton (two); Daventry; Detling (two); Eastbourne; East Farleigh (two); East Hoathly (two); Great Barford; Great Somerford; Hartlip (two); Headcorn; Hoo (two); Ightham; Ipswich; Levenshulme (two); Lewisham; Leybourne (two); Limehouse; Llanhamlach (two); Meon Stoke (two); Otham (two); Pembrey (two); Pevensey; Platt; Ripe; Ryarsh (two); Southwark; Stansted; Stoke (two); Stockton-on-Tees; Stoke Hammond (two); Thornham (two); Tinsley (two); Trottiscliffe (two); Unsworth (two); Unsworth Hollins; Upper Clatford; Warbleton; Wateringbury (two); Westbury; West Farleigh (two); and, West Peckham (two); to lie upon the Table.

LICENSED PREMISES (EARLIER CLOSING).

Petition from Batley, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT DUES (ABOLITION) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against, from Barrow in Furness and Wells; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MEDICAL CONGRESS.

Copy presented, of Report of Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., LL.D., the Delegate of His Majesty's Government to the International Medical Congress held at Lisbon, 19th to 26th April, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Statement as to the age at which compulsory Education begins in certain Foreign Countries [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st December, 1905, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT.

Copy presented, of Return showing (1) the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State as represented by the Nominal Funded Debt, Estimated Capital Liability in respect of Terminable Annuities. Unfunded Debt, and other Liabilities in respect of Debt, the Estimated Assets, and the Exchequer Balances at the close of each financial year from 1835–6 to 1905–6, both inclusive; and (2) the Gross and Net Expenditure charged annually during that period against the Public Revenue on account of the National Debt, and other Payments connected with Capital Liabilities [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (NO. 4, 1906).

Copy presented, of Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Independent State of the Congo, modifying the Agreement signed at Brussels, 12th May, 1894. Signed at London 9th May, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND.)

Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for 1905, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 166.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Completion of the Smyrna and Akabah Railway.

CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs which of the unfinished portions of the line from Smyrna to Akabah are nearing completion.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) We understand that the line from Hama has been completed as far south as Medawara, and that the next section to Thabouk, 120 kilometres, is expected to be in working order in the course of this year. The branch from Medawara to Akabah has been surveyed, but the construction is believed to have been temporarily suspended.

Danish Colony at Cape York.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any communication from the Danish Government respecting the latter's prospective foundation of a colony at Cape York; and, if so, what reply was given.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The Answer is in the negative.

The "Knight Commander."

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the text of the finding of the St. Petersburg Admiralty Court on the sinking of the ss. "Knight Commander" has yet been translated; if so, whether its purport can be communicated; whether any answer has been received to the claim made on the Russian Government by the captain and the crew for their personal losses and damages; and, if not, what further steps His Majesty's Government purpose to take to bring the matter before the Russian Government with a view to an early settlement.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The text of the judgment of the Supreme Prize Court at St. Petersburg has been translated, and has been communicated to the legal representatives of the owners of the "Knight Commander."

The effect of this decision of the appeal court is, in short, that a large portion of the "Knight Commander's" cargo was rightly condemned by the lower court as contraband, that this portion exceeded half the cargo, and that the ship was therefore rightly declared a prize under the Russian rule; that the commander's action in sinking the vessel is not a circumstance for the Prize Court to deal with at all, but a matter of naval discipline; that the Russian naval prize code contemplates the sinking of neutral ships as well as enemy ships, and behind that code the court cannot go, despite all that may have been written by international lawyers on the subject; that where the destruction of a vessel is necessary in the interests of a belligerent, parties interested ought not to suffer; but as ship and cargo have been adjudged prizes, the chief loss falls on the State, and owners of innocent property must recover compensation by initiating claims before the Prize Court.

No communication in regard to any of the claims arising out of the sinking of this vessel has been received from the Russian Government since this judgment was delivered, and His Majesty's Government are at present considering, in communication with the Law Officers of the Crown, what further steps they can properly take in the matter.

Chinese Government and Sir Robert Hart.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present understanding of the promise of the Chinese Government as to the eventual succession to Sir Robert Hart in his office; and whether a new office has been created with powers such as to constitute an alteration of the position of Sir Robert Hart and of his eventual successor in office.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The promise given by the Chinese Government will be found on page 19 of China Blue-book No. 1, 1899, and is to the effect that an Englishman shall continue to be employed as Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs, so long as the trade of Great Britain at the various Chinese ports exceeds that of any other country. This condition still obtains.

An Imperial Decree appeared on the 9th instant appointing the President of the Board of Revenue to be Administrator General of the Customs, with control over all Chinese and Foreigners in the Customs Service. His Majesty's Government cannot suppose that it is intended by the terms of this Decree to introduce any alteration in regard to the functions exercised by the Inspector-General; but His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Pekin has been instructed to ask the Chinese Government for explanations as to the exact meaning of the Decree.

Upper Street (Islington) Post Office.

MR. WILES (Islington E): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can state the date on which the northern district post office will be removed to the new premises in Upper Street, Islington.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I hope that the transfer may be made in July next.

Building Loans to Irish Tenants.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether Irish farmers who have purchased their holdings under any of the Land Purchase Acts will be loaned money by the Board of Works for buildings and other agricultural improvements, on the same terms and at the same rate as landowners (otherwise landlords) can borrow from the same authority for a like purpose.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The reply is in the affirmative.

Sanitary Condition of Wheathampstead School.

MR. H. STEWART (Greenock): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Herts county surveyor in his report presented to the Herts County Council on December 18th, 1905, as to the condition of the Wheathampstead School (No. 1,888), stated that the lavatory accommodation is hardly satisfactory; that the county council thereupon ordered the Wheathampstead school managers to arrange at an early date for the provision at their own expense of a proper water supply for flushing the water-closets automatically, and that the said order up to present time has not been complied with; that on Saturday, March 3rd, last one of the parishioners, summoned for not sending his boy to school, stated on oath that owing to the insanitary condition of the school his son frequently came back from the school-house suffering from headache and sore throat; that in front of one class-room there were six lavatories close to the school windows, the nearest being only four feet away; that the only means of ventilating this class-room was through swing panes of glass opening on the lavatories, and that at times the room was offensive and intolerable; and whether, as nearly five months have elapsed, and the county council's order has not been obeyed, he will take steps to secure that a state of things so dangerous to the health of scholars and teachers is immediately remedied.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The circumstances mentioned by the hon. Member have not been brought to my notice, but plans for the improvement of the office accommodation have recently been forwarded, through the county council, for the approval of the Board. The plans have been returned, with a request for fuller information, and an inquiry as to the possiblity of removing the offices further from the school. The hon. Member may rest assured that the Board will not allow the matter to drop.

MR. H. STEWART: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that on March 3rd last the Rev. E. C. Morgan was ordered by the St. Albans magistrates to send his son to the Wheathampstead school, when it was in an insanitary condition, and that when, in obedience to this order, on May 1st his son attended at the school he was sent home by the head master; and whether, seeing that the attendance of this lad at school had been ordered by a bench of magistrates, he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have no information as to the incident mentioned in the Question. The Board are in communication as to the improvement of the offices.

The International Tea Company and the Budget Proposals.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the International Tea Company, the head of which is a member of the Government, is a party to the agreement entered into in connection with the Budget by the leading tea dealers not to reduce the price of tea.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I have no information on the subject.

The Royal College of Surgeons.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he would be prepared to consider a petition having for its object a reform of the Royal College of Surgeons, with a view to giving some voice in the management of the College and its property to the members of the College.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I shall be glad to consider any petition which my hon. friend may send me, but, as he is no doubt aware, any change in the constitution of the Royal College of Surgeons can only be carried out by legislation unless such change has the support of the governing body of the college.

JUDICATURE BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next and to be printed. [Bill 205.]

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. BRUNNER (Lancashire, Leigh), in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said it had been before the House of Commons seven times, including its first introduction in 1892. Four times it had been rejected and three times carried. It came before the House this time in a slightly different form from that of previous years. The example of the French Act had been followed in drawing it up. That Act laid it down as law that the hours of work in mines should be reduced gradually from their present number to eight per day. That example had been followed in this Bill. It was proposed that the hours of work below ground in coal mines should be gradually reduced till they reached the limit of eight hours. The time of employment would be nine hours in 1907, and by means of a reduction of half an hour in each year the limit of eight hours would be reached in 1909. He made no claim to be an expert either as a proprietor or as a workman, but he laid claim to a good deal of expert knowledge as a works manager. There were three parties to be considered in this Bill; first, the men; secondly, the employers; and thirdly, the consumers. He invited the House to look at the Bill first from the point of view of the men. It had been said to be a principle of the House that it should not interfere with the employment of men. But the House had interfered in the past with the employment of women and children, and there was no difference in principle between interfering with the hours of labour of women and children and the hours of labour of adult men. It was only a question of degree. In the case of railway servants, too, there had been legislative interference with regard to the hours of labour. He trusted, therefore, that the House would not in this case look upon non-interference with adult labour as a sacred and inviolable principle. How was the object of the great majority of the miners in this country to be obtained? They might obtain it by agreement; possibly by strike; or by legislation. The miners had already tried to get an eight hours' day by agreement, and they had failed. He did not think anybody in this House would recommend the method of strike. Labour Members had frequently said that no one who had experienced a strike would wish to repeat that experience. A strike would paralyse not only the coal trade, but, in fact, the whole trade of the country. There had been substantial agreement in the speeches on this subject in previous debates that eight hours' underground work was sufficient for any man. The toil was arduous, and was done in darkness, which was only made visible by the feeble light of a safety lamp. The air was bad and very often the temperature in which the men worked was very high. Miners were subject to diseases which men who worked in the open air were not subject to. Altogether the work underground was disagreeable and arduous. The Bill provided for a working day of eight hours from bank to bank. It had been suggested in previous years that there should be a working day of eight hours at the face, because mines differed very much in the distance of the working face from the shaft. Going to the working face of the mine was a necessary part of the miners' daily occupation. There were sometimes miles of underground walking in a stooping position before the working face was reached, and frequently the miners, after their walk, had to sit down to rest before actually beginnning their work. The time occupied in getting to the working face ought therefore to be included in the eight hours of work. From the health point of view, there was no need to argue the Bill. With regard to the wages of the worker, they would always depend in the long run upon his output. If anybody thought that this proposed reduction of the hours to eight would increase the demand for workmen, and therefore would increase wages, he hoped he would get that idea out of his mind as soon as possible, because it was quite certain, from an economic point of view, that a man's wages would depend in the long run upon his output. Cases of the reduction of the hours of labour with good results were numberless. Hon. Members had only to look at the reports of debates upon this question to see that that was so. He need only say further that if Hon. Members would look up the Board of Trade Returns they would find that there was an annual net decrease in the hours of labour in spite of an increasing trade. Reduction of the hours of work so improved the physical condition of the workers that the output was the same as or better than when the hours were longer. He had had a good deal of experience of that kind in the business with which he was connected. His company had a universal eight hours day, and so satisfactory had they found the reduction of hours to eight that they would not under any circumstances go back to the old long hours. He would not advocate this Bill if he did not believe that, after its passage, the men would do the same amount of work as they did when there was a nine or ten hours' day. The consequence of the reduction of hours would be that there would be eight hours of strenuous labour instead of ten hours of slow work, or eight hours of strenuous work with long intervals for rest. It was surely better for miners to have their meals above ground than below ground under the disagreeable conditions there existing. There had not been a return of hours of labour in the mines since 1890; but if hon. Members would look at that Return they would find that as the hours of labour were long so were the meal hours long. If the Bill passed the work underground would be lengthened by the meal times being shortened. With regard to the case of the employers, he did not think for a moment that if this Bill passed there would not be cases of individual hardship. Mines which were nearly worked out might under this Bill come to an end more quickly. Many mines, he believed, were not managed as well as they might be. In many cases they would be forced under this Bill to take steps which they ought to take now. It would not be the first time that Parliament had regulated work in the mines. There had been a succession of Coal Mines Regulation Acts. Governmental interference had been justified in that they saw year by year a progressive decrease in the number of accidents in mines. He believed that if this Bill were passed those who raised an outcry would adapt themselves to its provisions. There were many cases in which the miner worked less than eight hours a day from bank to bank, and he could not find any reason for the differences in various parts of the country. It did not seem to be governed by the hardness of the coal or the thickness or thinness of the seam. It seemed simply to be a local difference of custom. If he was right in this contention one part of the country could surely adopt the methods of another part. He did not think the colliery owners of this country could complain of excessive Governmental interference. He had spoken about the French Act. That Act was in existence to-day for the reduction of hours of labour. Germany had also stringent colliery legislation. He now came to the question of the consumer, who, he believed, would have to pay for a short time more for his coal, and, cheap raw material being necessary for trade, as everybody would agree, it was to be hoped that period would be as short as possible. The arguments he had put forward went to show that he did not consider prices would be enhanced for very long. In the near future the output per man would be as much as it was to-day. He thought hon. Members would agree as to the necessity of the new provision exempting a mine from the operation of the Bill where it was necessary by reason of any accident causing the stoppage of the working of the mine. The number of underground workers whom this Bill affected was very large. In the last Return, in 1904, the number was given as slightly over 670,000, among whom were 6,789 boys under fourteen years of age, and it was for those boys he would particularly plead for a reduction of hours. He was glad to say the number of boys was rapidly decreasing. From 1903 to 1904 it had decreased ten per cent. If the House approved of this Bill it would be doing a great deal for a very large and deserving class of the community. He begged to move.

*MR. ENOCH EDWARDS (Hanley) said that as this was the first opportunity he had had of addressing the House on this question, he might be pardoned if he made some reference to his experience as an observer in the galleries for a number of years when this Bill had been before the House. The hon. Member for the Leigh Division had fairly stated the case of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. For a great number of years the principle involved in this Bill had been discussed on both sides, and a majority of the House had more than once voted in favour of that principle. To-day they were asking for an affirmation of the principle in the hope that their desires on behalf of thousands of struggling workmen would be realised early in this Parliament. The House had got beyond one stage of the question. There was no opposition to the underlying principle that eight hours was long enough for either a man or a boy to be employed underground in one day. In the judgment of some of them it was too long under some atmospheric conditions. Unfortunately, while it was easy to assent to general principles it was not so easy to apply those principles. The chief difficulty in dealing with an eight hours Bill in this House was the special conditions which obtained in the northern counties of Durham and Northumberland. In speaking of those two counties he should try to reflect what had been his own feelings for a number of years towards the representatives from the north, and he hoped that whatever might happen in this debate would not impair or destroy the friendship which existed between them. They had gone on in the hope that some way would be found of reducing the long hours worked by a certain section of the mining community in the North of England. There it was admitted that the boys worked ten hours a day, whilst the adults in the mines worked much less. Many Members felt that if any section of the mining community ought to work shorter hours and receive special preference and protection it was the young boys who were employed in the mines. Unfortunately, up to the present time they had not been able to reduce the number of hours of miners in the north. Notwithstanding the fact that there had been numerous debates and conferences on the subject, no reduction of any tangible character in the number of hours worked had been made. It had been admitted that it was the system of work which precluded the mineowners in the north from making any change at all. He did not think it was a sufficient argument to say that because a system had been in existence for a great many years it should not be disturbed. Surely that was no argument why the system should not be interfered with, and he thought that it was quite time that an eight hours day was adopted. The chief difficulty came not from the colliery owners in the north but from the miners. It had been stated that this Bill would increase the cost of production, but he did not agree with that contention. He was not surprised that there was opposition, because whatever subject was brought up in the House of Commons they would be sure to find some one opposing it. He remembered that when the change was made in the law in 1872 very strong protests were made on the ground that the Act would increase the cost of production. To-day the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act was fairly well known, and nobody attached too great importance to that argument now. He wished to point out that the average number of days worked by miners this year would not exceed four days per week, and notwithstanding that fact, there was an increased output of coal last year by 3,000,000 tons. If the Eight Hours Bill was put in force to-morrow he did not believe it would prevent all the general trades and interests from one end of the kingdom to the other being supplied with fuel in abundance. The means of production were such that arguments as to a possible panic and a rise in prices were entirely out of place. Every practical man knew that the old conditions in regard to production no longer obtained, and there was no possibility of a coal famine in this country unless the House of Commons persistently refused to listen to the voice of the workers on the question of an eight hours day. He hoped this question would be settled without resorting to what he would describe as a piece of brutal ignorance—he referred to a strike. They were now seeking to settle this question upon the lines of least cost and inconvenience. In the district which he specially represented in the mining world, previous to the Act of 1872 men and boys were employed underground for eleven hours per day. At that time they were told that any alteration in the number of hours would ruin the industry, but it had not been ruined yet. The hours were reduced to forty-eight hours per week for winding coal and eight and a half hours to nine underground. That system had obtained for thirty years, and yet the output of coal per man to-day was higher than it was in the days when the hours were the longest. Were they to wait until some measure was passed which would not affect or disturb any small collieries throughout the country? If that was the logic of all this opposition, then they might say good-bye to an Eight Hours Bill for the next generation. He wished to have a system by which they would gradually apply the eight hours day in the interest of trade, workmen, and employers, and everybody concerned, because it was much better that a change of this kind should be introduced with the least possible friction. When they were told that this measure would seriously affect the cost of production, he would remind the House that when the Chancellor of the Exchequer imposed a tax of 1s. per ton on exported coal, which largely affected the northern counties, the collieries were not closed up. In the interests of common humanity he hoped the House would resolve to relieve the miners of this burden, even if it was a little costly. He thought the change would be worth making a sacrifice for, and he appealed to the House to pass this measure by a majority of such a character as would hasten the settlement of this question. He did not want to magnify the significance of what was going on around them, but there were mining experts who knew what was going on in the work in coal mines at the greater depths, at which in many instances there was a terrible risk to health owing to the atmospheric conditions. Instead of talking about an eight hours day, he believed that in some instances four hours would be long enough for men to labour in the mines. He believed that the opponents of this measure would not be willing to tolerate such an atmosphere even for four hours a day if they could possibly get away from it. He contended that the trade of mining was one which appealed in a peculiar and special way for the adoption of an eight hours day. They had heard discussions with regard to raising the moral, physical, and social tone of the working-classes. In this connection he would ask the House to remember that there was no class of the community who suffered more from exclusion from ordinary life than working-men engaged in the mines. He did not want, in supporting the present Bill, to picture too strongly the tragedies which so often occurred in mines, with the result of devastating mining villages, but if they considered the danger, the toil, the circumstances, and the surroundings of the occupation, he held that the supporters of this measure might reasonably claim the votes of hon. Members in the House, and also some recognition from the people of the country. No one in the House would quarrel with those who took a different view. No one would quarrel with the right hon. Member for Morpeth who had graced the House with his presence for so many years. He was satisfied that there was no community in the country who did not regard the right hon. Gentleman with affection. They realised, however, that there was a difference between the North of England and themselves. He believed that his friends from Durham and Northumberland would not oppose the Bill so strongly as they did, but for the fact that there were special conditions which had grown up under the two-shifts system. The French Act was not that which he and his friends desired, although they accepted the principle of it. He and his friends had been engaged for sixteen years in the great work of propaganda in regard to the question of hours, and although Continental miners had obtained reduced hours, the miners of this country had not so far received like advantages. Everybody believed that eight hours was long enough for a man to work at any sort of trade. The house itself had declared by its rules that it was quite enough for hon. Members. Our competitors in Germany and France were moving along these humane lines. Let it not be said that the Mother of Parliaments was to be outrun by the people in competition with us. The German Government realised that in the high temperature of pits six hours was long enough to be employed underground. In asking the House to support the Bill, he recognised that they were all animated by the best of motives and desired to make the lot of the people of this country better and brighter. It was on these grounds that he appealed to the House to give the Bill a Second Reading. For passing this measure Parliament would receive the thanks of men who had toiled in darkness and danger for years waiting for the dawn. He begged to second the Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said he hoped the speech of his hon. friend the Member for Hanley had not carried away hon. Members from the line of reason in regard to this question. He found himself in a difficulty not because he had a bad case—he believed it was as good now as in previous years when this proposal had been discussed, but because he found himself in opposition to hon. Members with whom he had worked shoulder to shoulder on many occasions. The hon. Member who moved the Second Reading of the Bill had stated the economic aspect of this question in a clear and explicit manner. The seconder of the Motion had spoken with enthusiasm and fervour in pleading for the Bill on grounds of humanity, but even if five-sixths of the Members of the House were to vote for the Second Reading to-day he would next year, if representing those who sent him, still oppose the measure. He did not oppose it in the interest of colliery owners, or from the fear of a rise in the price of coal, but because he felt that if the Bill became law, two of the foremost coal-producing counties in England would be injured. It would be injurious, not to the owners only, but to the workmen. It was for them he pleaded. He thanked the hon. Gentleman who moved the Second Reading for the sympathy he had expressed for miners. From his youth onwards he had been a miner, except during two little breaks—once when he worked in a quarry, and another time when he was a sailor. These occupations were useful for polishing men and bringing out their finer faculties and feelings. Although he did not agree with the proposal in the Bill now before the House, believing that its supporters were putting forth their endeavours in the wrong direction, he appreciated the sympathy they felt for miners and their desire to carry out, if possible, a change which they thought would have a beneficial effect on those engaged in the mining industry. The mover had stated that he was a manager of works, but he would remind the hon. Member that there were great differences in the methods of working mines. This Bill was unjust to labour itself. In view of the opportunity which workmen now had for combination this Bill was a plea of cowardice. They were forgetful of their self-reliance in beseeching the House of Commons to do what, if expediency, or the exigencies of trade would allow, they could do for themselves. He did not preach on this matter to converted people; he preached to sinners. The mover of the Bill had stated that the miners had failed to settle the question for themselves, but the hon. Member did not seem to know that the Miners Federation some time ago entered into negotiation with the employers. It was on record that the employers were willing to agree to an eight hours day, subject to certain conditions in regard to the winding of material, and if these conditions had been accepted the eight hours' question would have been settled before now. An hon. friend of his, who was a sympathiser with all working class aspirations, had said that there should be an eight hours day pure and simple for every man. But that system had been tried and had failed. With all his experience in mines, and all the complications as between one kind of labour and another, he insisted that there must be some room—some latitude for negotiation between employers and employees. He was at one with his hon. friend in deprecating strikes. He was not a fighting man; but when a fair strike was proclaimed and he was forced into it, then he accepted the position as a man and kept to it as long as he could. He was ready for the retort, which had already been made, that with their strong trade union combination they ought to have settled this matter of the eight hours day long years ago. Well, he had lain awake of nights and had spent hours during the day trying to fit in these things and to keep the benefits they had acquired as trade unionists intact and entire; it was not for the lack of support from the most powerful combination of unionists in the country, but because a solution of the difficulty was impossible while they kept the present system. It was because those who were at the head of that combination had failed to suggest a substitute. The hon. Gentleman had said that no hours had been shortened in Northumberland and Durham. That was not correct. In 1890 an arrangement was made with the coal owners, and the hours of the coal-hewers were shortened so that they were not to work more than seven hours from bank to bank. And during the last three years the hours of employment of 1000 boys in the Durham district had been shortened. At the present moment the union was in negotiation with the employers in Durham to try and arrange that the hours of employment of boys under sixteen years of age should be shortened in accordance with the very principles of this Bill. Therefore, it was not correct to say that they had failed in trying to arrange this matter by negotiation. They opposed this Bill simply because they dreaded a revolution in the conditions of labour which would lead to a dislocation of the trade in the two Northern counties. It was because of that that they were so consistent—he would not say, so courageous—in their opposition to this Bill. The front of their objection to it was the welfare of their people, and lest a greater danger should come upon them than at present. The House would bear with him if he sketched the difference between the conditions of labour in the mines in Northumberland and Durham and in the other mining counties in the country. Apart from other economic considerations, if the hours of working in other coal fields were reduced from ten to eight, it would not introduce the smallest dislocation. In every other part of Great Britain if an hour, or half an hour, were taken off the working hours of the men, it would not interfere with the smallest part of the arrangements of the mine. But in Durham and Northumberland they had two shifts of men and one shift of boys. [An Hon. Member: How many boys?] He was sorry he could not tell the hon. Member the number of boys employed. But there was one shift of boys of ten hours. The men who went on for the four o'clock shift went into the pit for the purpose of getting coals ready to take away when the boys arrived in the mine. The second shift of the men went on at half past nine and came out with the boys and by that process they were only engaged from six hours to six and three-quarter hours from day to day, from bank to bank. There was great ignorance on this question. One Member had said that these boys were taken in before the men to open the doors; and an hon. Member outside the House asked another hon. Member if these men had not time to finish their work with an eight hours day, why did they not take their work home with them? [An Hon. Member: Was that hon. Member sober?] It had to be remembered that the hewers went into the mine two hours before the boys; but in every other coal mining district in the country the boys went in together with the men. That had been the custom all along. If this Bill was passed it would dislocate that local custom, and he must confess that up to the present time he had tried and had miserably failed to fit in an eight hours day for the boys so as to keep up that custom. He hoped that the hon. Member for Barnsley would give the Durham and Northumberland miners credit for the same regard as he had for the boys. A circular had been sent out by the North of England United Coal Trade Association which put the case very fairly, showing how the mines in these counties would be specially affected by the provisions of the Bill. That circular stated that—

> The system of working by two shifts of hewers to one of boys is necessitated by the natural conditions of the coal-field which render it impossible to maintain the existing output of the pits by a single shift of hewers. Under the regulations proposed to be enforced by the Bill it would be impossible to continue this system, as the time left for the boys to work would not be sufficient for them to get to the shaft the coals produced by the two shifts of hewers, whose time would be consequently ineffective."

What would the boys be doing until the men started to work?

> "The following appear to be the only alternative methods of working under the provisions of the Bill:—(1) A single shift of hewers served by a single shift of boys and other workmen; the hours of all classes being eight from bank to bank. (2) Two shifts of hewers, each to be served by a separate set of boys and other workmen, all being employed eight hours from bank to bank."

Nothing had been more striking than that in the North of England the number of boys under fourteen years of age available for mining work were getting less and less. Nothing was more certain than that with a gradual improvement in the condition of the working classes, the tendency of the time was for boys not to go into the mines as young as they used to do. That was apart from the operation of any Act of Parliament. Boys started work now at an age at which the boys of long ago thought themselves men. If the coal owners were right in their statement—and they were—that there must be two shifts of boys, where were these two shifts to be obtained? The hon. Member for Rhondda Valley laughed, but he would know that the number of boys for the mines was getting less and less. As had been stated by the seconder of the Motion, the wages of workmen and the profits of the employer depended upon the demand for coal, and the *raison d'être* of their position was that they were afraid of the present system being entirely upset and thrown on one side. He was sure that the House would not be led away—he did not say this in the way of disparagement—by the rhetoric and passionate declamation of the hon. Member for Hanley, when he appealed to the House for humanity's sake to give them this Bill. His hon. friend was one of those but for whom they might have had a measure dealing with this question twelve years ago. In view of the fact that the House was largely composed of new Members, he wanted them to consider the history of this Bill, which was rather a chequered one. In 1894 it was carried through this House and went into Committee, but the hon. Member, supported by other hon. friends of his, refused to accept an Amendment to the effect that in any county in which the measure was adopted by workmen employed underground in the manner set out in the Bill it should come into operation. That meant that where the workmen in any district decided for an eight hours' day, it should become law. Would any hon. Member tell him where, on that occasion, the plea for humanity came in, outside the districts of Durham and Northumberland, on the part of those who opposed a proposal which, by a bare majority, would have given them an eight hours day? The alleged inhumanity to boys who were kept down in the darkness of the mine for eight hours had gone on for twelve years, in consequence of the refusal to accept that Amendment. But hon. Members, in spite of that inhumanity, refused to accept that proposal. If humanity was crying out with such a loud voice why was this local option refused? And it should be remembered that that local option applied to five-sixths of the mining community of this country. The hon. Members, in refusing to accept the local option, said it would put the districts in a very unequal position with regard to competing one with another. He would ask the House to observe that there was no plea of humanity here. They wanted to give the coalfields of this country equal rights and equal facilities in competing for the markets of the world, and this claim for humanity would not be found in previous debates on the subject. All that had been previously dealt with was a matter of commerce, and in dealing with the matter, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham asked whether the House of Commons was to be a place where commercial differences and inequalities were to be settled. He was not going to plead for local option itself, although he thought it would be a very good thing for this House to consider and decide upon, but he wanted to deal with this matter from the point of view of the prosperity of the workers and employers. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil (Mr. Keir Hardie), who was an advocate for local option before the Labour Commission, was asked the following question, which had a bearing upon mining districts—

> "If a case could be made out that a particular trade or district would be injured, or that it would close a number of pits and throw great numbers out of employment, you would not in that case be prepared to enforce the Act."

The answer was—

> "No. If it could be shown that giving that power to districts would enable us to secure the eight hours day for the districts which are in favour of it, I would be prepared, in order to obtain the eight hours Bill, to make such a concession."

The last Trade Union Congress passed a resolution on the eight hours, giving trade option, but the fact was not recognised that there was as much difference between the mines of this country as between trades. If this measure was forced upon them it would constitute a great revolution. If he were an employer and he found the lads were suffering, he should shorten the hours at once. He and others had been charged with cruelty, and no doubt everybody who looked upon him regarded him as a cruel monster, every lineament of whose face betrayed his coarseness and severity. In reply to that he would give a curious little bit of anecdotal history. He was motherless at four and a half years, fatherless at nine and a half, and then he commenced to work for four-pence halfpenny a day. Ever since he had been engaged in forcing his own way upwards. He had not forgotten the requirements of youth or turned a deaf ear to its hardships. If one of the boys in their county had a finger-ache they felt it. If this Bill was passed, however, it would only enforce the workmen's point of view, while that of the owners was left out altogether. It should be remembered in this connection that we were in competition with other countries, and that 90 per cent. of Northumberland coal went across the seas. His opinion was against the interference of the House of Commons with adult labour when men had the power to combine. They had before them the welfare of their people, and when hon. Members opposite said they did not represent labour, he could only say he represented the miners of Durham as fairly and truthfully as any Member in the House, and his colleague the hon. Member for Morpeth had for forty-three years been the Secretary of the recognised society of miners in Northumberland. Surely he represented labour. They were now speaking on behalf of their people, and they asked that this question should be settled once and for all. He suggested that if this Bill were read a second time that it should be sent before a Select Committee to inquire into all the circumstances of the case, and to devise a scheme which would settle these difficulties once and for all. If that were assented to he would not oppose the Second Reading.

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. John Wilson, Durham.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*Mr. BURT (Morpeth) congratulated the mover of the Second Reading of this Bill upon his excellent maiden speech, which had added to the long array of good maiden speeches delivered in the House this session. He did not know that he disagreed to any substantial extent with anything the hon. Gentleman had said. The hon. Member had pointed out that this Bill was to some extent a new departure based upon the principles of a Bill passed by the French Legislature. He had no objection to following a good example set by other countries. As his hon. friend the hon. Member for Hanley had pointed out, although it was based on the French Act, it was not copied therefrom. There were one or two very important exceptions. The hon. Member referred to meal times in mines, and in that respect there was a great difference between the Bill now before the House and the French Act. Moreover, under the French Act the manager had power to make certain exemptions, and very often for as long as two months at a time the Act could be suspended. That again was a very great distinction. He was glad to hear the hon. Member for the Leigh Division, as a large employer of labour, add his testimony to the good effect of the eight hour day as adopted by his own firm, because one always rejoiced to hear of success in that particular direction. Upon this point he disagreed with what was said by the hon. Member for Mid Durham. He did not object to interference with the hours of adult workers. He thought each case should be treated on its merits. He rejoiced at the tone of this debate. The hon. Member for Hanley had spoken of their long friendship, comradeship, and co-operation, notwithstanding the difference of opinion between them. He hoped that would always be so. His hon. friend the hon. Member for Mid Durham had entered very fully into the question of their double-shift system in the North of England, and had pointed out that their objections were based on the enormous, the almost insuperable, difficulties in adapting that system, which had many advantages, to the proposals of this Bill. They could not see that they could shorten their hours further compatible with the advantages they now possessed. He admitted that an eight-hour day was very desirable and that it was a thing which he would sacrifice much to obtain, but he could not see his way to attain it without greater evils being introduced than those from which the miners of the north suffered at the present time. That was their position. He was glad no charge of inhumanity had been made as regards the miners. No such charge ever had been made by their mining colleagues. He had heard it made many times, but it was made by kindly philanthropists, who were absolutely ignorant of the subject upon which they spoke. For many years their own committees had considered this subject, with the object of devising a scheme to deal with it, but so far they had been unable to see their way to bring the hours of the boys down to eight a day without introducing greater evils than those they removed. He desired to reiterate and emphasise the appeal made to the Home Secretary by the hon. Member for Mid-Durham, that if the promoters of the Bill would agree, this Bill should be read a second time and referred to a Select Committee. The supporters of the Bill would lose nothing in doing that. It must strengthen their position, because it would then be carried by the unanimous assent of the House. They could hardly expect the Bill to become law this session, and therefore, in his opinion, the better plan would be to agree to that proposal. For the Government would have to take a decided line one day or another upon this question, and if the Home Secretary could see his way to appoint a Departmental Committee to examine into the whole subject the House of Commons would be able to take definite action. All Parties would have an opportunity to put their views before the Committee, and then it might be possible for the Government to take the matter up and deal with it in some coming session. If hon. Members did not agree to that then they must vote against the Second Reading. They had been successful four times upon this question and had been defeated four times. The Bill had been carried in less democratic Houses than the present, and would no doubt be carried to-day, but the Second Reading would not help them to solve their difficulties. If the House thought the existing system in the north was growing intolerable and should be done away with, let them end it. He only suggested that the House should think before it acted. He had known statesmen to get into considerable difficulties by acting before they thought. In conclusion, he would say, not what some said, that this Bill, if passed, would destroy the coal trade in the north; but he did think that it would cripple the industry. To be successful they must combine sound business principles with their philanthropy.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) said he rose in answer to the appeal of his right hon. friend to state the general views of the Government upon this question, but he first desired to join his congratulations to those of the previous speakers to his hon. friend the Member for the Leigh Division upon his very interesting maiden speech. He congratulated him not only on the substance of that speech, but upon the fact that it had fallen to him to move the Second Reading of this Bill, a very old friend of the House, on an occasion which would probably be found to mark the advance of this question from the academic to the practical stage. They had listened to the admirable speeches of the hon. Members for Mid Durham and Morpeth which had been in the spirit which ought to mark all discussions of controversial subjects. He did not intend to enter into a discussion as to the provisions of the Bill, but one point that he would deal with was the new provision which had been based on the French system. He agreed that it was an admirable system, and, however far the proposal taken from that system might contribute to a settlement of this problem, it shewed that there was a conciliatory spirit among those who were responsible for this measure. The Bill was tolerably familiar to the House. Most Members had voted for it over and over again, and no member of the Government wished to go back from the position he had taken up in this matter in past years. What was the position to-day? It was admitted that there was no prospect of the Bill making further progress this session. Even if the Government were to give it facilities it could not make progress, because both of the Grand Committees were already choked with business. It would probably be admitted, too, that no Bill of this kind could be thoroughly satisfactory which was not generally agreed upon by the workers for whose benefit it was designed; and a Government, especially a Liberal Government, would make a great mistake if it attempted to ride rough-shod over the views of the hon. Members representing Northumberland and Durham. He recognised that his hon. friends from Northumberland and Durham agreed that there was a *force majeure* against them on this question with which, naturally, they were obliged to reckon; and he had not failed to recognize, also, the views of the coal-owners on the subject. In these circumstances they had to seek some solution of the difficulty which had always confronted the Bill since its first introduction. Ever since 1890 the debates had, necessarily, taken a somewhat academic turn. The economic side of the question had never been considered by any responsible or neutral authority. As a consequence the most widely divergent views prevailed. It was both affirmed and denied that the effect of the Bill would be to diminish output, to increase the cost of coal, to reduce exports; to give an advantage to the foreign producer; to create hardships because of the inequalities that existed, not so much between one district and another, as between one colliery and another, and one seam and another; and also in the case of pits where long distances had to be traversed to the coal. In addition there was the divergence of opinion as to the economic results of the Bill between Northumberland and Durham and the rest of the country. There had been no authoritative or official intimation as to the economic conditions which were alleged to differentiate Durham and Northumberland from the rest of the country. Some of his hon. friends had said that the Bill would lead to a great reduction in the number of hands employed, and that it would cripple the coal trade of Durham and Northumberland. To all these and other matters full consideration, impartial and scientific, ought to be given. When a Government having to deal with an awkward matter suggested an inquiry, they exposed themselves to retort. But he was in the happy position that an inquiry was pressed upon him by the representatives of Durham and Northumberland; and he imagined it was not thought undesirable by the supporters of the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorgan, Rhondda): As a bargain for the Second Reading.

*Mr. GLADSTONE said the fact remained that at this stage they had come to close quarters on the question. No one had anything to lose by such an inquiry as had been suggested. He thought it would be admitted that no progress could be made with the Bill in the present session, and he gathered from the representatives of Durham and Northumberland that they would acquiesce in the Second Reading on the condition that a Committee of inquiry should be appointed. He said frankly the Government would be very glad to appoint such a Committee. He was certain it would help matters forward. Therefore, so far as the Government were concerned, they were quite ready to institute an inquiry into the economic side of the question, and to be guided as to its nature by the opinion of those principally concerned. For his part he was more inclined to a Departmental Committee, because it could sit all the year round. He would point out that, though it might be thought by some that the conditions were so well known that a Committee of inquiry was unnecessary, under the circumstances the inquiry would not lead to any loss of time, and the net result must surely be something gained. Consequently he hoped there would be a general agreement to the appointment of the Committee. If hon. Members preferred a Select Committee of the House the Government would raise no objection, but as the session was getting advanced that course would probably mean loss of time. He would sum up the position of the Government by saying they were quite ready to refer the question as suggested by hon. friends on both sides to a Committee of inquiry, and to give a cordial support to the Second Reading of the Bill.

Mr. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) claimed to speak on this occasion because he had been for over twenty years connected with a company which had very much to do with mining matters. For a good many years he was chairman of the company, and he was glad to know that some of his best friends were among those who were employed in the mines in connection with that company. If he were ever proud of being associated with the mining interest, he was still prouder to-day when he thought of the speeches that had been delivered in this House by mining representatives, which in tone, in eloquence, and in argument had been seldom equalled. He was very glad that the appeal which had been made to the Government that there should at last be a thorough inquiry into this matter had been received by them in a cordial spirit. The right hon. Gentleman, however, in saying that this was the first occasion on which the matter had been treated from a practical rather than from an academic point of view must have forgotten that time fourteen years ago, which was referred to by the hon. Member for Mid. Durham, when the Government took the unusual step of adopting a private Member's Bill as their own in Committee of the House. It was the memory that during all those years there had been really a spirit of conciliation behind which would have enabled this matter to have been settled if the promoters of the Bill had really desired it, that he welcomed the prospect of arriving at a practical conclusion upon this matter. So far as the inquiry was concerned, he would suggest to the Government that it would be far better to have a Departmental than a Select Committee. A Departmental Committee could go thoroughly into the matter without interruption of its sittings. They knew the extreme value of Departmental Committees emanating from the Home Office. They had had a good instance of it in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Bill. There was, he thought, no more expeditious manner of obtaining the information required than the method he suggested. The questions in connection with this Bill were of three kinds. The first was the difficulty which had generally absorbed the larger part of the debates on the question in the House, namely, that there was not a distinct mandate from the men in favour of this particular change. In another Bill which they had been discusing this week, the Government had acknowledged that if one child over one fifth of the children attending a school was against a particular facility being given, the opinion was to be final and was to be taken against nearly four-fifths. If that was to be laid down by the Government as a fair principle, surely the plea of Northumberland and Durham deserved consideration, creating as it did an exact analogy, because they represented just about one-fifth of the coal output of the country. He did not desire, however, to enter upon the difficulties in connection with the Northern part of the Kingdom, because anything he might say would be extremely inadequate after the eloquent defence of the position the House had already listened to. The second difficulty was as to the interference with the hours of labour, and that had also been put forward strongly in a previous speech. He believed the right principle to follow was that as a rule labour was able to take care of itself. But of course they had frequently admitted, and probably would in the future, that there must be many exceptions to this rule, and if it could be proved that there was any peculiar injustice resting upon the miners of this country which justified such an exception, then he should certainly be the last to stand in the way of an exception's being made in their favour. But what were the facts? They knew that in a large part of the country miners were not now working the limit of hours fixed in this Bill. The average of the miners with whom he was connected was something like seven working hours per day. It was not the fact that there was this great demand which should cause them to make an exception to the general rule he had referred to, and there were peculiar conditions which rendered it much more difficult to carry it out than was the case in other industries in which work ceased at a particular moment. The peculiar conditions of the mining industry had always stood in the way of a settlement of this question. Reference had been made to the French system, but he believed there was a great difference in the calculation of the eight hours in France from that proposed under this Bill. He believed the French system was that the eight hours were calculated from the last batch of men to go in the mine until the last batch went out, which made it an easier matter to arrange. No solution had been given by the promoters of this Bill as to where the liability was to lie for ensuring the carrying out of the Bill. It was impossible for the owners of a mine to ensure, where hundreds of men were concerned, that every miner should be actually at the surface at a particular moment. It was very important that the question of liability should be fixed before such a Bill as this was passed into law. By limiting the hours of labour there was no doubt a danger of more accidents occurring, because the men would have their attention more occupied in coal getting than in the safety of the workplaces in which they were engaged. It was a question which had been brought home to them by proceedings which were taking place upstairs, where the representatives of the men were increasing the liability of the employers very largely for minor forms of accidents, thereby throwing a heavier burden upon employers. Under this Bill a claim was being promoted which was likely to cause an increased number of accidents, which would cast an additional burden on employers. This sort of question had not, he thought, been dealt with by the promoters of the Bill, and, therefore, it was very desirable that they should have a very careful inquiry into the subject. The economic side of the question had also to be considered, because many Members—though, of course, not those who were connected with the mining industry—were liable to forget that proposals of this kind largely increased the cost. It was not only the men involved in coal-getting who had to be considered, but the men who were paid, not by the piece, but by the day; for if there was any decrease of output, of course it would tell on the expenditure in connection with their wages. If the time of output was limited, it would involve to the employers a larger use of day men in order to enable them to get through the work in the more limited time at their disposal. He had made inquiries with reference to the pits with which he was connected, and had ascertained that sixty-three per cent. of the men were employed on piece work and 37 per cent. by the day. Therefore, in considering the economic side of the question, they had to consider the extra cost which would be necessarily involved in connection with all the day men in the quarries. After all, it should be remembered that the coal trade was not a flourishing trade which could bear new burdens constantly being placed upon it. They had the best proof of that in the fact that the 1s. duty on coal was the duty the Chancellor of the Exchequer considered it most essential to take off. It showed that a shilling extra on the export position of our coal was considered to be a serious burden. If that were so the coal trade was not in the flourishing condition that it could stand any greater strain upon it. Speaking as one who was connected with the employers, he welcomed this inquiry, because he believed it would place the matter in a further and fairer light before the House and the country. The debates in this House had too often followed only one line, that of the difference between the northern counties and the Miners' Federation, and the economic question had been rather laid on one side. It was most desirable that at a time when the House comprised so many new Members this matter should be reconsidered, and he hoped that hon. Members who were opposed to this Bill would be content with the declaration of the Government. He trusted that the question would be settled by the House in a friendly spirit.

*Mr. GLOVER (St. Helens) said he had listened with great pleasure to the debate, and he assured the hon. Member who had moved the Second Reading that they had no complaint to make on the score of humanity. The right hon. Gentleman who had seconded the rejection of the Bill admitted the principle of an eight hours Bill, but with him it appeared to be a question of the system under which they were working, and that seemed to be the bone of contention. He wished to put to the House one or two questions on this subject. The mover of the Bill had pointed out that there were three interests concerned, and the first was the workmen themselves. He was sure there was no hon. Member in the House who would not admit that the working men themselves ought to be largely taken into consideration in dealing with this question. What was the position of the workmen in this country in regard to this measure? It had been said that Northumberland and Durham were against this Bill, but he wished to point out that the whole of the workers in those two counties were not opposed to this measure, for when the ballot was taken a large number of them had declared in favour of it. He was sorry to say that in the part of the country which he represented in the House of Commons he had to report that it was a black spot so far as the long hours were concerned. Again and again through their organisations they had made requests to meet the employers on the one side and the representatives of the men on the other with the object of bringing about a shorter working day, but in every instance they had failed to get a meeting with the employers. No leaders of the working men or of the miners desired to have a strike upon this or any other subject, because they knew full well the horrors of strikes, and they did not desire to bring about the change they were asking for by such means. It had been admitted by his hon. friend opposite that an eight hours day was long enough for any miner to be engaged at work in the bowels of the earth. Consequently it was only the system that was preventing their friends in Northumberland and Durham from voting with them upon this question. It had been said by the Government that they were prepared to institute an inquiry into the question, but he should like to know what they were going to inquire into. The question had been discussed before the House of Commons for the last twenty years, and they seemed to get no nearer a solution. They had been told that the Bill would mean an increase in the price of coal, and that it would make coal so dear that it might cripple the industries of the country. He did not believe that if an eight hours day came into operation to-morrow there would be any diminution in the output of coal. Last year there was only an average of four days per week worked by the miners, and yet 240,000,000 tons of coal were raised, or 3,000,000 tons more than the total raised the year before. It was contended that they were going to place the miner and the off-hand man on the same level, but that was not the case. Upon this question of the output they ought to bear in mind that during the last ten years the facilities for producing coal and increasing the output had been very great. In the year 1904, 190,000,000 tons of coal were raised, but by improved facilities in 1905 no less than 240,000,000 tons of coal were raised. They had been told that they had no right to ask the House of Commons to do for the adult workmen what they were able to do for themselves. They had also been told that the workmen could come up from the pit whenever they liked after a certain time, say two o'clock or one o'clock. That statement, however, was not true, for instead of facilities being offered in the past for the workmen to come out of the mine at two o'clock, he was sorry to say that they were frequently at work in the district which he represented until three o'clock, in some cases half-past three, and in others as late as four o'clock? Could any hon. Member say that there was any liberty to the miners when once they descended into the bowels of the earth, and were compelled to stop there till half-past three or four o'clock. Surely that was interfering with the liberty of the workmen. On these grounds he thought they had a right to ask the House to pass the Bill now under consideration. This was not a new subject, and he hoped it would be the last time they would have to come to the House of Commons with regard to it, and that facilities would be given for passing the measure through all its stages this session. With regard to the suggested appointment of a Committee, that seemed to him to be only a means of postponing dealing with the question. He did not see why there should be either a Royal Commission or a Departmental Committee appointed on this question. Everybody understood what the opposition to this Bill was, and there could not be much more information presented to them after an inquiry than what they already possessed. Hon. Members representing the north of England had clearly stated that they were not opposed to a shorter working day for boys as well as men employed in mines, and their only opposition was because the Bill would upset the whole of the arrangements under which they worked in Northumberland and Durham. He was pleased to note that they had not upon this occasion had any opposition from those who represented the employers in the House. He hoped that the Bill would be accorded a Second Reading and that it would be placed upon the Statute Book this session.

*MR. RAPHAEL (Derbyshire, S.) hoped the Government would reconsider its position and allow the House to determine once and for all the principle of the Bill without relegating it to the distant future. The measure had been before the House year after year, and the same arguments had been repeated. It had been proved time after time that what was now demanded by the workers would not affect the coal trade disadvantageously. It was impossible to conceive that they would ask the House to pass a measure which would prejudicially affect them in regard to the means of obtaining a livelihood. The miners were dependent for their livelihood on the prosperity of the trade, whereas the mineowners, having other resources, would not be affected to the same extent in their means of existence if the trade were injured by the adoption of an eight hours day. He thought great stress should be laid on the fact that an enormous majority of coal miners asked this change themselves. He believed that six-sevenths of the men employed in coalmining asked for it. The Home Secretary had said that several matters required to be inquired into. These matters had been thoroughly thrashed out time after time, and no amount of extra information could be obtained to make the position clearer than it was at the present time. Why did the Government assume this attitude now? On all other occasions the members of the Government had voted for the change, and now that they were in power and had the opportunity for legislative action they did not carry into effect the views they professed whilst in opposition. The coal miners were very dissatisfied with these dilatory proceedings. The matter was now in a critical and crucial position. They had been endeavouring by peaceful means to obtain this reform. They were tired of the matter being hung up year by year. It was perfectly obvious to those acquainted with the trade that the ability of the miners' leaders had been greatly exercised in restraining them. He was afraid that if the matter was to be hung up indefinitely the men would say that there was no hope of obtaining anything from Parliament, and that they would take the matter into their own hands by having a strike. He asked the House to consider what might be the consequences of a strike on the part of five-sixths of the men who produced coal. It would be a strike without parallel in this country. It would be too late to consider the matter after the man had been driven to extremes. What was the difference between the two sections of miners on this question? In Northumberland and Durham they wanted to employ boy labour; in many cases the boys were children.

MR. JOHN WILSON: They must be over thirteen years of age.

*MR. RAPHAEL said he called a boy of thirteen a child. The House had been told of an arrangement by which 1,000 boys had had their hours of labour reduced. The fact that this could be done in the case of 1,000 boys surely showed that there were methods of management not yet exercised in some mines where they could be put into operation. It appeared to him curious that when it was suggested that a system should be devised in order that these young people should not be employed so many hours a day they should be told that it could not be done without damaging or ruining the trade. The House ought, in the interest of humanity, to put an end to the confinement of boys in mines for ten hours a day under conditions which must be bad for their health, bad for their future growth, and bad for the interests of labour, because young people whose growth was curbed in this way must be less useful on attaining manhood. Surely a demand so moderate, and so often put forward by such a large number of men who lived by coal mining, ought to have some respect paid to it by the House. They did not want shorter hours in order to damage the trade by which they lived, but rather to cultivate to some extent the amenities of home life, to improve themselves mentally, and to enable them to take a still more active share in public life in which they already took a prominent part. He asked the House to pass this Bill, and thereby do something to enable the miners to gratify these desires. They were always told that it was going to increase the cost; but what if it did, if it increased efficiency? He thought the increased cost of getting the coal would be counterbalanced by the increased efficiency of the labour.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said that after the statement by the Home Secretary it would not be necessary for him to move the following Amendment of which he had given notice—

> "That it is inexpedient to proceed with the Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill until, by means of a Royal Commission or some other suitable inquiry, more complete information is available as to the necessity for such a measure in the interest of the workmen, its consequence to the industry directly affected, and to the community, and, if any limitation of the working hours in mines is necessary, the method by which such limitation should be secured."

He was satisfied with the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that a Departmental Committee would be appointed. He hoped it would meet as soon as possible and report, so that a Bill on the subject might be introduced next session. He did not think those connected with the mining interest were against the Bill on principle, but they did say that so important and novel a change ought not to be made in the law without inquiry to see whether justice was being done to all the mining disticts of the country. The debate this afternoon had been very business-like, and it had been conducted with good spirit on both sides. He thought the inquiry would be a good thing for another reason. Was this House a suitable tribunal to judge of the question? Did not the deserted state of the benches give a sufficient answer to that question? The subject was too technical for an ordinary Member of Parliament. An hon. friend had told him that when speaking in the lobby to an hon. Member this afternoon in regard to this Bill that hon. Member said to him, "If the miners have not finished their work after eight hours why don't they take it home." If that was the position of hon. Members he thought the Government had come to a wise conclusion in appointing a Committee to advise them. The practices in the working of mines not only varied in different districts, but also in different collieries in the same district. He was a shareholder in a colliery in South Yorkshire where an eight hours day was in operation now. As the result of an inquiry which had been made he could tell the House that all through South Yorkshire the owners in this matter stood in a most favourable position, and he was not at all sure but that this Bill, if passed, would assist them in levelling up the hours in other districts. He hoped, therefore, the House would see that in what he said he was perfectly impartial. The inquiry to which he had referred showed that, after making allowances for the time occupied in winding up and in travelling at the pit bottom, the actual average time that a collier worked at the face was only six hours and fifty-two minutes. Considering that the men only worked four and a half days a week, the hours of the colliers in that district would come to about thirty per week. Surely that was not unreasonable. As to the effect the passing of this Bill might have on the output of coal, both the mover and the seconder admitted that it would decrease the output. The calculation of some colliery proprietors was that the output might be reduced from 10 to 25 per cent. Taking the output at 240,000,000 tons a year, a 10 per cent. decrease would amount to 24,000,000 tons. That would be a very serious matter. The result would be that both manufacturers and householders would have to pay more for their coal. Up to the present the colliery owners had not felt the effect of the general improvement in trade. Hon. Members were all glad to know that trade was prospering at present, and no doubt the low price of coal had been conducive to that prosperity. It was important that the industries of the country should continue to have a good and sufficient supply of cheap fuel. He was not at all sure but that a decrease in the output to the extent of 1,000,000 tons a year would represent the margin involving the difference between a high and a low price for coal. He was sometimes surprised, however, that the colliers themselves, when they urged this matter, had not reflected that they were paid by tonnage, and that unless they got an increased tonnage their wages would suffer. He thought the point that if they got less coal they would get less money had not been sufficiently thought over. Reference had been made to the French law, but the French law only applied to the actual hewers of coal, while this Bill would apply to every one who went down the pit, which was a very different thing. He hoped that the committee to be appointed to inquire into the question would be able to make some recommendations whereby elasticity might be secured. A rigid rule in this matter would be impracticable under certain conditions. There was another question which the Committee would have to consider, and that was the question of the safety of human life. If this Bill was introduced without any elasticity of the eight hours rule, how were they going to provide for breakdowns, falls of roof, etc.? There were three ways in which an eight hours day could be brought to operate. First they might calculate it from bank to bank; second, from winding to winding; and third, the time spent in hewing the coal. In regard to the latter, the districts in which it was in force were not numerous; but he was informed that the colliers in the Forest of Dean had passed a resolution in favour of making the hours from winding to winding only. Those for whom he spoke were quite agreed that eight hours work in the day was long enough; and all that they asked for was that certain provisions should be introdced into this measure, so as not to endanger the safety of the mines. That was, he believed, the position also of the hon. Members representing Durham and Northumberland. If these requirements were complied with, he believed a satisfactory settlement could be arrived at, and that next year, or the year after, a Bill might be passed which would be acceptable not only to employers, but to the country generally.

*MR. BRACE (Glamorgan, S.) said he had listened with exceeding interest to the discussion, and especially to the speech of one of the hon. Members for

Sheffield. He took it that that Gentleman was speaking on behalf of the Mining Association of Great Britain, which included all the colliery owners in the country. The hon. Member declared that the employers were not against an Eight Hours Bill from bank to bank. He was very much obliged for that declaration, because he felt that when the principle of the eight hours from bank to bank was conceded, there would be no great difficulty in settling the details. An entirely different statement, however, had been made by the coal owners in the North of England association, who had circularised hon. Members preparatory to this debate. He found from that circular that there was a very serious and strong opposition offered to the Bill upon grounds which led him to think that the members of that association had not studied their own case with advantage. They stated that in other employments, including quarrying, the hours of labour were reckoned from the hour the man began to work until he left off, and took no account of the time occupied in travelling to his work. The idea of comparing the position of a man employed in a quarry with that of a miner in the depths of the earth led him to think that the members of the North of England Coal Trade Association had not considered this matter with the care which they should have done. There could be no analogy between men employed in quarries and men engaged in deep coal mines. He noticed further that the admission was made that the coal owners had tried, but had failed, to come to a mutual arrangement with the trade unions to settle this question of the hours of labour. Surely, with the power of the trade unions of the miners in Northumberland and Durham, and the desire of the employers to come to an arrangement, some settlement might be brought about; but it was because it had been found in practice that such a settlement could not be reached that this Bill had been brought into Parliament to finally settle the matter. In another part of the circular to which he had referred, it was stated that the conditions under which the miners found employment were much more "comfortable" than in other employments. He emphasised the word "comfortable" The idea of associating comfort with working in a deep mine was highly amusing, if not ridiculous. Every one knew that if there was an occupation which was anything but comfortable, it was that of working in a mine. He knew of nothing so unpleasant. The miners had to go down into Egyptian darkness and travel along roads which were rough in the extreme, carrying their picks and shovels under their arms. Anyone who tried to do that would find that the conditions were anything but "comfortable." Again, it was stated in this circular that "the miner was protected from the vicissitudes of the weather." There was no word in the English language strong enough to criticise such a document as that properly, and yet it had been prepared by some gentleman speaking in the name of the coal owners in the north of England, who were really supposed to know something of the conditions under which miners pursued their calling! He found, further, that in the circular the question of the cost of production was raised. Of course, the cost of production was different in different parts of the country. No measure dealing with the industries of the country had been introduced into Parliament without this argument of the cost of production being urged against the concession of any reform. The workmen said that whether the cost of production under an eight hours measure would be increased was open to doubt. When the Compensation for Injuries Bill was before the House, it was said that the cost of production would be increased by 3d. or more per ton, but in practice it had not increased one penny per ton. Therefore, hon. Members should be wary in accepting that plea as against the Bill now under discussion. The miners had no desire to add to the cost of production, because that was a very serious matter for the workman as well as the employer; but there was one thing on which there could be no compromise, and that was the sacredness of human life. This was a question which ought to be considered in a category entirely apart from the cost of production. It was always difficult to oppose the hon. Members for Morpeth, Wansbeck, and Mid. Durham. They always put forward their proposal with such a sweet reasonableness that it made it most difficult for their colleagues to oppose them; but he was authorised to say on behalf of his colleagues that they did not think that at this juncture the reference of this subject to a Committee ought to be made a condition with them. They felt they must carry the question to a division. If his hon. friends opposite would agree to allow this measure to pass without a division, it would make matters much easier, but they must have it on the records of the House where they stood. And in this connection he desired to say that they were a little grieved at the attitude taken up by the Home Secretary. For twenty years they had been continuing this agitation for an eight hours day, because they felt it was a question which ought to be dealt with by Parliament rather than by trade unions. He did not believe that there was any danger of dislocating the trade of the country. As reasonable men, who had given some attention to the welfare of the country, they came to Parliament to ask an eight hours day for miners by law, rather than use their power as trade unionists to accomplish that object. There could be no local option on a question of this kind. When other industries came to the House and asked for amendment of the law dealing with life and limb, there was no talk of local option. A majority of the miners of Great Britain demanded this Bill, and why was not the majority to rule in the case of the miners as it did in all other matters? They conceded that the Bill should not become fully operative until 1909, in order to give an opportunity to their friends in Durham and Northumberland to put their house in order. Surely, if the French coal owners and French colliers were entitled to an eight hours day, it might be agreed that British miners should have that boon granted them; and he hoped that before this year was out they would have an eight hours day from bank to bank.

*Mr. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said he wished to disabuse the mind of his hon. friend, if necessary, of the impression that there was any idea that he, and those who agreed with him, were anxious to obtain any tactical advantage over the promoters and supporters of this Bill. He recognised very fully and very gratefully the concession which the promoters of the Bill had made in the measure this year as compared with the Bills introduced in former years. There was undoubtedly a distinct movement on the part of the promoters of the Bill to lighten the difficulties with which they, in the north of England, were confronted. But the present Bill did not entirely remove those difficulties; and in putting forward the suggestion which he and his friends had made, they were actuated purely and simply by the thought of a *rapprochement* between the parties, and that they might get a Second Reading for the Bill without a division. The suggestion of an inquiry, either by a Select Committee or preferably by a Departmental Committee, was not put forward in anything like the nature of a bargain. They thought that as there was an attempt at *rapprochement* by both parties to this question in order further to reduce the difficulties which confronted them in the north of England, nothing would be lost by an inquiry, and possibly everything might be gained. It was universally admitted by all parties in the House that at this stage of the session the Bill could not become law this year. His hon. friend the Member for South Derbyshire had said that the promoters of the Bill had been contending for it year in and year out for the past twenty years; and that they were not fools. Might he respectfully say to his hon. friend that in all these years he and his colleagues in the representation of Northumberland and Durham had been opposing the Bill, and that in their humble judgment they were not fools either? All he could say was that the men on the spot had not been able to devise a plan which, while reducing the hours of labour of boys, would not end in inflicting greater hardship on other workers. Of course, men on the spot were not always the best judges, but the fact remained that they were the men who were confronted with these difficulties and had to deal with them. It was with them a choice of two evils, and the question was which was the lesser. He was glad that it was frankly recognised and acknowledged by his hon. friend the Member for Hanley, in his excellent speech, that, after all, the differences which existed on this question were honest differences. To have that frankly and generously stated was a great admission and helped them along wonderfully on the road towards conciliation. These differences were not confined to one side of the House nor to one party in the House, and the opponents of the Bill held their opinions as honestly as the supporters held theirs. In making the suggestion that an inquiry should be held, the opponents of the measure thought that by that course they might be able to obtain the opinion and advice of impartial men who would bring all the soundness of their intellect and all their ingenuity to the consideration of problems which had baffled their own ingenuity from year to year, and also the ingenuity of the man on the spot who were as earnestly in favour of the eight hours movement as any hon. Member who took part in the promotion of this Bill. The men he was talking about had children working in the mines, and had worked in the mines themselves, but they had been bound to admit that they could see no way out of the difficulty except by a plan which would increase and not reduce the difficulties of the normal situation. It had been admitted again and again that one of their difficulties was with regard to the double shift system. His right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean had said very truly that if they could only solve the question of the employment of the boys in the Northern Counties, the opposition to the Bill would disappear. The question, however, was how that problem could be solved without doing injustice to other people, and that was the problem with which they were confronted. The double shift was admitted on all hands to be the most economical system of working coal mines, but if that system was adopted they would require two sets of boys to perform the work. They had not got them, and there was no prospect of their getting them if the Bill was passed. They did not want more adult labour, as they had sufficient already, and parents of boys were not likely to come into mining districts in order to get an opportunity of employing their boys when there was no demand for their own labour. If the system suggested were adopted, the only way in which the complement of boys could be completed would be that young men who were actually hewers should be employed to do the work of boys. These young men were sometimes married and had families, but they would be compelled to keep them at boy labour for a much longer period than they did at the present time. Such an arrangement would be strongly resented both by the boys themselves and the young men aged twenty-one or twenty-two. They had been told again and again that they had failed to settle this question in all these years by their negotiations through trades unions, and it was now proposed that where they had failed Parliament should come in and assist them. He did not think Parliament was quite prepared to assist them, but it was suggested that they should apply force where conciliation had failed. He did not conceal for a moment that if hon. Members cared to adopt that system of force they could compel the northern miners to alter their system and could impose upon them any additional cost they liked. He repeated that hon. Members could by the force which this House possessed declare that they must alter their system at whatever cost and subscribe to the doctrines laid down in an Act of Parliament. But Parliament would not be assisting them. Of course they would have to obey the mandate at once and set their house in order, but in all probability they should have to dispense with the labour of a large number of their coal hewers. These men would be thrown upon the labour market and would compete with miners in other districts, and that was not a problem which ought to be presented to labour organisations in large districts. He repeated that while hon. Members could compel them by the force of an Act of Parliament to subscribe to their terms, that did not help them in the north, and it would not improve the conditions of the men employed in this industry. He thought that if under all the circumstances, hon. Members would consent to have an inquiry between now and the meeting of Parliament next year, it would very materially assist them in the consideration and treatment of this question. A Departmental Committee, as the Home Secretary had pointed out, might, if appointed, continue its labours while the House was not sitting, and could bring up a report next year when the Government would be able, if they were so minded, to pass legislation founded on that report. If that report was in favour of this scheme, the position of the supporters of the Bill would be strengthened and that of the opponents correspondingly weakened. It was obvious, having regard to the advanced stage of the session, that the Bill could make no further progress this year, and next year in order to forward it they would have to go through the same rigmarole that they had gone through this year. To get a place, they would have to stand the chances of the ballot, and it would depend upon their being successful whether they would have the chance of bringing the Bill before the House. Even if they succeeded in obtaining a place, the promoters of the Bill would have to face the same opposition that they had faced on the present occasion. He thought, therefore, that they would be well advised if they took a Second Reading of the Bill and then allowed the Government to set up a Departmental Committee to consider it. Again and again they who came from the north of England had been criticised as if they were lacking in human instinct and feeling towards their own offspring. Humanitarian sentiments were very fine sentiments indeed, and he would be glad if there was a great deal more desire to promote ideals of that sort on both sides of the House. They were not more wanting, however, in regard to humanitarianism in the north than were their friends in other parts of the kingdom. Twelve years ago if there had been anything in the humanitarian argument this Bill would have been put in operation in four-fifths — or he might say five-sixths — of the districts in the United Kingdom. It was not so much the humanitarian idea, however, which was at the root of the action of those who were supporting the Bill, as the fact that they desired to equalise the commercial differences existing between one district and another. Parliament had no right to interfere in such a matter. If there were geographical conditions which gave one district economic advantages as against another district, it was not for this House to seek to over-ride those geographical and economic advantages in favour of less favoured districts who were engaged in competing in the race for commercial success. He urged his hon. friends who were promoting the Bill to give some slight intimation of what their intentions were. They did not on that occasion wish to force them to a division if they would give them an indication of their intention to allow the Committee to be constituted. If they would allow the Bill to go to such a Committee as had been suggested he was quite certain that many of the difficulties which now appeared insuperable would be removed and they should find themselves in a position to deal with this question next session.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) thought it was very desirable that in a new Parliament this question should be discussed, in order that they might know the position in which they stood. The hon. Member for Mid Durham had referred to him as a Durham colliery owner who was in favour of this Bill.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.): I never mentioned anybody's name, and certainly not that of the hon. Member.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON said he understood the hon. Member to indicate that he as a master sitting on that side of the House would go down to Northumberland and Durham and put this Act in force at the collieries in which he was interested. He should be glad to put it in force as soon as it was put in force in other collieries. He did not hesitate to say that he was strongly in favour of the miner's eight hours day. The dangerous and arduous class of labour which was carried on in coal mines made it necessary that that labour should be safeguarded by special legislation. If hon. Members generally had experience of the conditions under which miners worked he was sure that few would oppose the Bill. He made it his duty from time to time to go down into the collieries and to see for himself the conditions under which the men were working. During the Easter recess he went down one colliery in order to see some electrical coal cutters at work. He had to travel in a main way which was only three feet high for half a mile, and he could only say that when he got to the face of the coal he needed rest before he could make an inspection. The time spent by the men in getting to and from their work was by no means the least arduous of their day's work. He therefore thought that the time should be counted from bank to bank, He should be glad to see the hours reduced even below eight from bank to bank. He was perfectly well aware that there were greater difficulties in applying this measure to the coal mines of Durham and Northumberland than in any other districts. He had always recognised that and believed that the hon. Members for Durham and Northumberland were honestly desirous of reducing the hours the boys worked, and that it was only in consequence of the difficulties that they hesitated at all about the Bill. He would ask, however, whether there was not a danger of exaggerating the difficulties of applying the Bill even in the collieries of Durham and Northumberland. He suggested that by the application to a greater extent underground of mechanical haulage, by the application of the power of electricity and by many other methods the difficulties might be obviated. While he desired to see a division taken on this Bill he did not wish to shunt any inquiry. After they had passed the Bill he should be perfectly willing to have it considered by some Committee. He, however, supported the measure and trusted that in that new democratic House of Commons it would be carried by the largest majority that it had ever received since it was brought before Parliament,

*MR. WALSH (Lancashire, Ince) said he only rose for the purpose of making a few observations upon certain points which he thought had been overlooked in the course of the discussion. When the supporters of the Bill pressed for its adoption upon humanitarian grounds, they did not mean to imply that hon. Members from Northumberland and Durham were lacking in decent human sympathy. They supported the Bill upon humanitarian grounds because great national interests were involved. What in the matter of technical education was the great complaint to-day? It was that although extremely costly secondary schools and technical institutes were erected and maintained at a great expense, national and local, the general experience in the populous centres was that the boys could not be got to attend the classes owing to the long hours they spent in the mines. In the mines of Lancashire not only had the hours of work increased within the last quarter of a century, but they had relatively increased having regard to the hours worked in other counties. That was not because they had not honestly and conscientiously tried by combination to reduce the hours of labour of their people, but because of the overwhelming competition. The outputs had increased very largely. When he was a boy working in the mines the average output of a mine was 400 or 500 tons per day. Now he could quote cases of mines the average output of which was over 1,000 tons. He was himself connected with a mine not long ago where the output was nearly 1,900 tons per day. This enormous increase was accounted for by the use of modern mechanical appliances. Could it be seriously contended that in the face of such results flowing from modern appliances, mechanical inventions, and the general bracing up of efficiency in the mines, the same necessity existed for working long hours? On humanitarian grounds alone there was an overwhelming case, not merely for the sympathetic consideration of this measure by the House, but for the absolute approval of the measure either unanimously or by a large majority. The conditions of labour in other countries which were dependent upon foreign nations for their supply of coal did not apply in regard to the hours of labour worked in this country, because we supplied the world with coal. This was a great national question which concerned the welfare of our adult population and of our boys, and he thought the Bill should be passed. He was very disappointed and grieved to hear the Home Secretary bring forward at this late hour — later even than the eleventh hour—the plea that the whole matter might be relegated to the consideration of a Committee. He did not agree with that proposal. In 1886 the measure was brought forward in the House of Commons—in the very same year that the Home Secretary's honoured father brought forward the question of Home Rule. He wondered whether, if the Home Rule Bill had been adopted by this House, any one would have suggested after nineteen years that it should be referred for inquiry to a Committee. It seemed to him to be a monstrous proposal. Did Committees prove anything? When had a Select Committee proved anything? Would they not, in attempting to get rid of one point of controversy, raise hundreds of others in its place? Would they not, in laying one devil, raise seven more devils each more fearful than the last? This was a case in which the analogy of the predominant partner should be applied. Even in the great Imperial issue of Home Rule, an issue that hundreds of thousands of people thought contained a great deal more than one question of controversy, Lord Rosebery himself had said that if he thought that the predominant partner was convinced of its necessity he was prepared to go on with it. In this case the predominant partner had been convinced for twenty years. It was with the greatest misgiving that he had heard the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman, and he most earnestly hoped the leaders of the Miners' Federation would not accept the suggestion; that they would press the matter to a division and utilise in the near future every resource of civilisation to bring the Government to a proper sense of its duty in regard to this matter. He did not think any useful purpose could be served by remitting this Bill to a Select Committee or a Departmental Committee. They were satisfied that this was a great national question, and he believed and hoped that they would see it settled within a few years.

*Mr. J. JOHNSON (Gateshead) said he was very pleased with the temper of the debate, and to think that although they were diametrically opposed to hon. Members, opposite on the question of the eight hours day, they did not differ in any other regard. All he desired to say was that he did not think that his hon. friends opposite were well advised in refusing this Departmental Committee. It had been urged again and again that nothing would be lost by accepting it. It seemed to him that they would be in a better position by so doing, because even if a division carried these proposals to-day, the question would not be settled. He could see no possible way in which they could agree with hon. Members opposite upon this question which had been honestly put forward. There seemed to be a latent feeling in the hearts of his hon. friends opposite that the suggestion for this Departmental Committee was not honestly put forward, because they said—"Why was it not put forward before." And for that reason he should be very pleased if this debate could be carried without a division. There was one point to which he wished to refer, namely, that in the whole of the debate, so far as he had been able to gather, not a single Member on the opposite side had addressed himself to the question of the special difficulties of the miners of the North. It was easy enough to say that the thing was desirable, and he could conceive a position when a day not of eight hours but of six hours was desirable. They were not arguing, as some hon. Members supposed, for longer hours. They held no brief from any mine owner's association. He had never regarded this question from the point of view of £ s. d. He had always admitted that there was an economic difficulty, but had always said that that was a matter for the owners to deal with. What he had in his mind, speaking as he did with his hon. friend for Mid. Durham for 90,000 miners, was that it was not their wish. That they refused; that was to say, so far as their force and power could accomplish it they refused and would refuse to have the hours of their men lengthened. Therefore it was incumbent on the promoters of the Bill to seek for some means of grappling with their difficulty. He only said that to point out that not one hon. Member opposite had attempted to appreciate that difficulty. It was not pleasant for him to speak against the sense of the House, but it was his duty to do so, and so far as he and those who thought with him were concerned, they were prepared to undertake the unpleasant duty of protesting to the utmost limit of their power against the lengthening of the hours of those whom they represented. It was said to be desirable, but surely something should have been brought forward to show how it was desirable when it was likely, as had been pointed out, to inflict great hardships on others. Hon. Members opposite, especially the hon. Member for South Glamorganshire, had indicated in their speeches that the passage of this Eight Hours Bill would end all difficulties; that was to say, that there would be general uniformity. That was not his opinion, and they might be assured that if this Bill passed it would not end the difficulties in Durham, but begin them. There was a strength of purpose in the northern miners who would not sit down and see their hours lengthened without protest. If the Eight Hours Bill was passed into law there would be an emphatic protest by the miners of Durham and Northumberland which might have large and grave consequences. He did not propose to deal with the economic difficulty, because it seemed to be the sentiment of humanity which ruled in the House. It was a very laudable sentiment. But was it for humanitarian reasons that they were asked to support the Bill? Was it not really the ballot-box which hon. Members had in view when they voted for the Second Reading. There were many hon. Members who represented constituencies other than mining constituencies, who would probably vote for the Bill, because though this question was not theirs it would affect the ballot-box in the next election. The hon. Member for Barnsley had been exceedingly moderate and temperate in his speech. In fact he had been surprised at the moderation of the hon. Member, whose attitude upon this subject was usually much more spirited. The hon. Member had admitted that the condition of things was bad in Durham. He himself did not say they were good. He was not speaking with the experience of having worked in the pit for thirty years for the purpose of telling the House that the pit was a desirable place. It was a very undesirable place indeed, and it would be desirable if they could shorten the hours not only for the boys but for the men. But while the hon. Member sat for a constituency in which the feeling in favour of this Bill no doubt largely predominated, he would like to know what the hon. Member had done within the conclaves of the meetings of his own association; whether he was prepared to seek by some means to persuade his fellow-owners to grant the eight hours. They could not accept the hon. Member's conclusions because so far as they were earnest and real they ought to have been translated into action by the hon. Member in his own association in trying to persuade that association to concede this very desirable arrangement. He concluded by earnestly urging hon. Gentlemen opposite even at this late hour to accept the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary, because he had no doubt that after very careful consideration of evidence collected from all parts of the country there might be a reasonable chance between now and another year of meeting together and to agreeing upon a scheme satisfactory to all concerned.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda) said that those who had spoken against the Bill had admitted fairly that their chief objection to its provisions was that they were afraid that the advantage given to the boys would inflict a greater disadvantage on the adults. In other words, there was a fear that the benefits accruing to the boys would be overridden by the disadvantages accruing to the men. What did that mean? It meant that hon. Members opposing the Bill were not prepared to meet the necessities of the boys by any kind of sacrifice on the part of the adults. But were not his hon. friends mistaking the whole object of this Bill. The memorandum of the Bill read as follows—

> "This Bill will, of course, not have the effect of increasing the hours of work in mines where

by custom or agreement the honrs of work are already less than those proposed by this Bill."

That was the memorandum, and the intention of the promoters of this Bill was in the memorandum. Hon. Gentlemen had appealed to their considerations as gentlemen. They in return appealed to them as gentlemen. The Bill was their honest opinion of what was necessary. They did not seek in any way to injure the position of any adult by increasing the protection of the boys. They agreed that whatever was the position of the boys in Durham and Northumberland, it could not be worse than the position of their boys in Wales. But hon. Members did not see that though their objection did not sweep away the fear of injury it did prevent the Bill coming into force all over the country. He, acting on behalf of many men and boys in another part of the kingdom, appealed to hon. Members opposite to withdraw their opposition. He appealed to them to let the Bill go through and trust to them to see what could be done.

*Mr. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said he could not speak upon this question with the experience of other hon. Members who had addressed the House, nor could he speak with the responsibility of a coalowner, because he believed upon this matter he held opinons not universally held upon the Opposition side of the House. He rose because he had represented for a good many years a constituency in which there were a large number of miners, and because in the early days of his candidature, fifteen years ago, he certainly was much impressed by the views expressed to him by many of the working miners of that district. There seemed to be weight in what they said. They pointed out how in the long days of winter the men and the boys would go down the pit in the morning before it was light, and would not come up again until after the sun had gone down. Day after day they would go down, spending their lives in darkness, both above and below, and tha had a very depressing effect upon their constitutions. He thought there was a great deal in that contention coupled with the fact that while down the pit the miner was faced with the daily dangers and difficulties of his occupation. He thought under the circumstances that the least he could do would be to go and see what the position really was in many of the mines in his constituency. So he went down the pits and crawled along on his hands and knees, with his lamp in his cap, and talked to the men at the face, but did not hear them speak of the comforts of a thin seam and a wet mine, such as had been alluded to in the course of the debate, and he had looked for those comforts in vain. Of course it was a more difficult undertaking for an amateur like himself to do this than it would be for a working miner, but still enough remained to make him think earnestly and truly that a man who had worked at the face of the mine under those conditions for eight hours a day had done a very full day's work. Those were, and had remained, his strong personal convictions. Why, then, was it that an eight hours day had not become universal in the part of the country which he represented? On that he thought the employers were entitled to express their opinion. And he had gathered from them that the chief difficulty they had to face was this. They were dependent upon the arrival of ships to take away their coal. If, owing to storms or other unforseen circumstances, the ships were delayed, it was impossible to clear the trucks already loaded, so that the men were kept waiting in the pit, often for hours at a time, with no work to do, until the trucks they had filled could be emptied and fresh ones sent to take their place. He thought that if some scheme could be devised to meet that difficulty, a good deal of the opposition on the part of the employers would be removed. The palliative of the Home Secretary—his remedy for this condition of affairs—was to appoint a Departmental Committee or a Commission of some kind. He believed that fifty Departmental Committees or Royal Commissions or Select Committees of this House had been appointed by right hon. Gentlemen occupying the Government Benches, to look into various questions during this session. Had not every argument that had been used on one side and on the other been put before the House? Yet they were not in a position now to come to a decision. He claimed from the right hon. Gentlemen on the Government Benches that they should now give the House their guidance and advice, that they should not shirk their responsibilities and seek to throw them on the shoulders of a Committee. They ought to give the House a distinct lead upon this matter, and not only guide their deliberations, but enable them to come to a conclusion. The Bill seemed to be more moderate in tone than any similar Bill laid before the House during his experience, and he could only say that whether the right hon. Gentleman granted this Committee or not, he should vote for the Bill in the hope that this country would be at least brought up to the level of other countries in this matter.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL, Yorkshire, Cleveland) said the hon. Member who had not heard the Home Secretary's speech had evidently been misinformed as to its purport, and other hon. Members had misinterpreted his remarks, although they were very clear and definite. It had been assumed that the Home Secretary's suggestion was that the Bill should not be pressed to a Second Reading, but that the subject should instead be referred to a Departmental Committee. He had suggested nothing of the kind. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that if the Bill went to a Second Reading he would support it. That was also his own intention, and, he supposed, the intention of his colleagues present on the Treasury Bench. The Bill having passed the Second Reading, it was proposed that then a Departmental Committee should be set up in order to attempt to discover some means by which the position of Durham and Northumberland might receive consideration. Hon. Members opposite must realise, as all the House must realise, that it was impossible in the present state of public business that the Government could give such facilities as would enable this highly controversial measure to pass this session. Since the Government could not give those facilities, and private Members below the gangway could not get the Bill through without them, the final decision must be reserved till next year. Was it not reasonable to utilise the interval to find some means of mitigating the grave difficulties that had been urged? After all, Durham and Northumberland were not unimportant counties, and their protests could not be brushed aside as a matter of no moment. The Miners' Federation, he believed, had no desire to ride rough-shod over their colleagues in the northern counties; and the Government view was that since the Bill could not pass this session, it was advisable to appoint some authoritative body, which, after hearing evidence and after due inquiry, would be able to present to the House and to the nation a declaration which would carry official weight. It might be that as a result it would be possible to modify the difficulties of the right hon. and hon. Members for Northumberland and Durham. Some change in the method of working the mines might be suggested. A larger number of boys might be employed in their shift to carry away the coal hewn by the men in their two shifts. The opposition might be conciliated, and the question settled by common consent. As the hon. Member on the front bench opposite was going to vote for the Second Reading, and his friends would probably not oppose it, and as the hon. Members for Northumberland and Durham were prepared to accept the Second Reading since the Government had proposed to inquire into their case, the promoters of the Bill would do well to accept the suggestion offered. They could have no stronger affirmation of the general principle of the Bill and the desire of this House, if possible, to shorten the hours of labour in the mines than would be conveyed in the Second Reading by consent. It might be in that way that means could be found for settling the question so that its settlement might not be the occasion of widening the breach that had so long remained open between the various sections of miners, but of cementing that union which all desired to see.

*MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside) said he could not understand why the promoters of the Bill could not agree to the solution suggested. There would be no reason for his speaking at all upon this matter if his hon. friends opposite had shown any desire to assent to this inquiry. It was because they refused to do so that he desired to say a few words. What he wished to do was to point out that no effort had been made on the part of the other side during this debate to deal with the special circumstances of Northumberland and Durham. There should have been at this stage of the Bill a technical discussion as to the conditions affecting every part of the country, but the hon. Member for Rhondda only went so far as to read the memorandum to his Bill and say that the promoters had no desire to inflict hardship. But the memorandum did nothing to help Northumberland and Durham, and merely said that it would not increase working hours. Supposing the northern miners found themselves forced, for the preservation of their wages, to lengthen their hours as a result of this measure, the memorandum could hardly be used to prevent their doing so. They on that side asked the promoters of the Bill to agree to the inquiry, which, while it would leave them in no worse position than they were before, might do something to solve the difficulties of the northern miners. Hon. Members said their sole object was to shorten hours and to better the conditions of life among the boys. In that he agreed with them, but when they were asked—"Why will you not accept local decisions in the matter?" they admitted directly or indirectly that it was for financial reasons, and that it might result in an economic disadvantage so far as they were concerned. There was no other explanation, and he ventured to say that even the mover of the Bill, to whom he desired to pay his tribute of admiration for the moderation and temper of his speech, would not deny it. The hon. Member had said that there would be as much work done in the shorter hours. He was well aware that the ten hours day's work from bank to bank by the boys did not mean ten hours work. It was largely intermittent, and the effect of this Bill might be to induce harder work than before in shorter hours. At the age of thirteen he worked twelve hours a day with intervals for meals and intermittent work. At the age of fourteen he worked nine hours a day with short intervals for meals; but the solid nine hours day was a very much harder day than the twelve hours day with intermittent work. He had no hesitation in saying the nine hours day's work, as done now in many factories, was a much more exhausting and ageing work than the work done in the longer hours of the old system. The mover of this Bill had argued that more work would be done in the shorter hours; he said there was a lot of loafing—the hon. Member called it loafing; he himself called it rest—in the ten hours day. He admitted that a greater pace would be put on, and if that was so this humane solution of shorter hours was a very imperfect solution indeed. He again appealed to hon. Members opposite to accept this Committee. The hon. Members for Northumberland and Durham could not see how their problem was to be solved. If the Bill was carried it might break down the two-shift system and create infinitely more industrial misery than they could possibly hope to compensate for by the shorter hours. He therefore urged hon. Members opposite to give some consideration to the problem of Northumberland and Durham and agree to this inquiry.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.): said that after what had fallen from the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office he begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

COAL MINES REGULATIONS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Yorkshire, W.R., Osgoldcross) moved that this Bill be read a second time. He said the Bill was one which dealt with part of the same subject as that which had just been dealt with, and was one that could be dealt with far more suitably by a Committee upstairs than in full session of the House. The main object of the Bill was to level up bad employers to the standard of good employers. The measure had been before the House on several other occasions. The clauses were the outcome of practical experience. They had been hammered out by miners themselves in consultation with employers, and were largely for the protection of human life and limb. The Bill commenced by placing in the hands of the Secretary of State for the Home Department considerable powers for making rules and by-laws. It then proceeded with a provision, as necessary to employers as to employed, to shorten the distances between shaft and shaft, with facilities and directions for reaching the shaft as quickly as possible in case of explosion or fall of roof. There were further clauses dealing with the appointment of inspectors by a representative body in whose deliberations the men themselves would have a voice. Then came some details for the protection of the men from the carelessness or neglect of those in charge of engines at the pit head, and for securing proper communication between the mine and the engine-house. A limitation was placed on the hours of inspectors so that they might do their work efficiently. There were other matters such as the presence of practical miners on Examination Boards, Registers of Accidents and half-yearly complete examinations of mines. It was suggested that one inspector should be appointed for every 10,000 men employed; that practical persons should be summoned as witnesses at inquests; that air passages should be driven through the solid instead of being constructed of wooden casings; and, what was most important, that there should be a compulsory examination of those parts of mines not in use in which gas accumulated, and where the superstitious sometimes heard the sounds of knocking and voices which might be symbolical of the death which was lurking there. These were matters which could not be discussed at length in this House, but would affect the interests of hundreds of thousands of men in this country. When they reflected that the deaths of miners ran into hundreds every year; that it was not simply a question of overstrain or inconvenience, but of the life and limb of men, the happiness of families and the safety of one of the greatest industries of this country—then he submitted there was ground for asking for something more than an eight hours' day, and that some consideration should be given, even at this late hour, by the Government and the House to this Bill. He begged to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that this was a Bill for the safety of life, but he thought the whole of its details ought to be referred to the Committee which the Government had promised to set up. It would be injudicious on the part of the House to read the Bill a second time without some assurance from the Government that that course would be adopted. There were certain special Rules, as those acquainted with this industry were aware, in force in different districts. This Bill repealed the whole of those special rules which in itself was rather a summary procedure, and was not, so far as he knew, necessary. He was not aware, at all events, that there had been any complaints as to them. There were certain general rules adopted in the Act of 1887, which were introduced into that Act on the responsibility of the Government with the sanction of the administration of the day, and he ventured to say the House would not be justified in reading this Bill a second time without some assurance from the Government that it should be referred to the Committee.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.): I beg to move that the debate be now adjourned.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs) formally seconded the Motion.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said the whole of these questions would be discussed by the Royal Commission on Mines, and that being so, and the hour being late, the Government would not resist the Motion.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned." — (*Mr. Lambton,*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, May 25th.

SALE OF COKE BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Debate arising.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Lord Robert Cecil.*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

LAND VALUATION BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Debate arising.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Stanley Wilson.*)—put, and agreed to.

Sir Francis Powell.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, June 15th.

TRAWLERS' CERTIFICATE SUSPENSION BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Debate arising.

Motion made, and Question. "That the debate be now adjourned." — (*Major Anstruther Gray.*)—put, and negatived.

Main Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

And, it being Five of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday next.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Solicitors Acts." [Solicitors Bill [Lords.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Post Office (Money Orders) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Public Health Acts with respect to building by-laws." [Public Health Acts (Building By-laws) Bill [Lords.]

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at eight minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 14*th May*, 1906.

Several Lords—Took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Huddersfield Corporation Bill. Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) [H.L.]

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Standing Orders Committee—Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect to the petition for additional provision in the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional provision.

Read, and agreed to.

Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Crellin's Patents Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}.

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [H.L.]; Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [H.L.]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [H.L.]; Cambrian Railways Bill [H.L.] Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

North Metropolitan Tramways Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Municipal Corporations Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill. Read 1^{a}; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 84.)

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools.

Of teachers in schools in Preston; St. James, Burnley; Nelson; St. Andrews, Burnley; Tonbridge.

Of parents and guardians of children at schools in Preston; Chatburn; St. Andrews, Burnley.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINES AND QUARRIES (GENERAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 1905. PART 1. DISTRICT STATISTICS).

Statistics of the persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to the inspection districts.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3583. United States (Philadelphia).

No. 3584. Russia (St Petersburg).

ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.)

Report for the year 1904.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BILL.

Read 1^{a}, and to be printed. (No. 83.)

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE PORTE.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: My Lords, I should like to ask the noble Lord the House would not be justified in reading this Bill a second time without some assurance from the Government that it should be referred to the Committee.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.): I beg to move that the debate be now adjourned.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs) formally seconded the Motion.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said the whole of these questions would be discussed by the Royal Commission on Mines, and that being so, and the hour being late, the Government would not resist the Motion.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND THE PORTE.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: My Lords, I should like to ask the noble Lord

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the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have any information to communicate to the House as to the position in the Sinai Peninsula.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, I am glad to be able to inform your Lordships that an agreement has been come to in regard to the matters in dispute in the Sinai Peninsula and on the Turco-Egyptian frontier. The Porte has informed our Ambassador at Constantinople that it does not question the telegram of April 8th, 1902; that a joint Commission will be appointed to make a topographical survey and map with a view to fixing the boundaries, so as to secure the maintenance of the *status quo* on the basis of the telegram above mentioned, and that the boundary will run from Rafeh in a south-easterly direction and in approximately a straight line to a point not less than three miles from Akaba. The Grand Vizier has also informed His Majesty's Ambassador that Tabah and all the other places in the neighbourhood recently occupied by Turkish troops have been evacuated and the troops withrawn to Akaba. I have already informed the House that a promise had been received that the pillars at Rafeh will be restored. It will thus be seen that all the demands of His Majesty's Government have been fully met.

HOME DEFENCE.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS rose to call attention to the question of home defence and of compulsory service in the Militia within the United Kingdom. The noble Earl said: My Lords, on the Front Bench to the right of the Woolsack there always sit some distinguished Members of your Lordship's House who form part of the Government of the day. Now, what, my Lords, would you say was the most important duty that falls to the Government? I hold that their most important duty is the defence of the Empire at large, and the safety of our hearths and homes in this country. I put some questions on Friday night to my noble friend the Under-Secretary of State for War to endeavour to ascertain whether or not this duty is attended to by His Majesty's Government, and the answer I got was anything but satisfactory, though I am bound to say it was the answer I had every reason to expect.

We have, I believe, eight so-called commands—that is to say, military districts—in England, Scotland, and Ireland. These commands ought to be ready at a moment's notice to take the field. I asked how long it would take before they could be ready. The answer I received was that it would be contrary to the public interest that this information should be given. I think that if it had been said that it was contrary to the interests of the War Office it would have been more to the purpose than to say that it was contrary to public interest, because, as regards the publication of the information I asked for, it is known to every Foreign Military Attaché in London. They know every man you have got, every gun you have got; and of your guns how many are up to date? I am afraid I shall have to show that they are very few. This information, as I say, is known to every foreign embassy in London and to foreigners abroad. Therefore, I think the reason it was withheld was that it would not be to the credit of the War Office that the truth should be known. On the other hand, if the answer was what it ought to be, that we get something for the £29,000,000 which we pay, and that our forces would be ready at twenty-four hours or forty-eight hours notice to mobilise, it is a thing which, instead of hiding, the Government should publish broadcast, for it would be a great element of safety and peace. Therefore, whichever way you take it—that it would be contrary to public interest to know what is known everywhere, or that the War Office dare not speak the truth—my noble friend's answer is equally unsatisfactory.

I said on Friday night that I should endeavour to-day, as I had this matter to bring before the House, to get some information on the question. As regards foreign mobilisation, your Lordships have only to look at the *Westminster Gazette* of to-night, and you will find a complete analysis of French and German mobilisation. In Germany the whole Army can be mobilised in three days; in France it can be mobilised equally quickly; but what is not mentioned in this article is the state of Switzerland, which is the most remarkable of all. In

Switzerland within from twenty-four to fourty-eight hours they can mobilise the whole of their forces to meet the enemy, and in forty-eight hours more they can mobilise what they call their landsturm. Now, my Lords, what can we do? I will read an extract from a letter I have received. The writer says—

> "To talk of mobilising our Army is rubbish. There is no Army; that is to say, there are no corps and no divisions except on paper. The minimum allowance for any one Army corps is eighty-four guns, and we have not sixty guns up-to-date in the whole country."

Is that or is that not true? I am afraid it is true. We now understand why my noble friend did not answer the Question put to him. To talk of mobilisation is a farce and an absurdity. You have not got the guns up to date, and, at the outset, even with the means you have, the time that would be taken to bring these corps together would be a fortnight or three weeks. Therefore, it is evident that my question could not be answered, because there are no means of mobilisation and the forces are absolutely without the necessary equipment.

I have always taken the greatest interest in this question of home defence. My soul has been in travail over the state of things for the last fifty years, and it seems to me as bad now as ever. When it was proposed by General Peel in 1859 that Volunteers should come forward I rushed forward with many thousand others, because we felt the necessity so strongly. Time went on, and nothing more was done. You traded on the Volunteers. In 1871 I wrote a letter to *The Times* to say that if nothing more was done, and if the Government did not put in force the law of the land, the best thing the Volunteers could do would be to resign. But I waited on, and in 1900 I resigned my commission, because I would not be a party to a sham, for I think we are a sham in the present state of the Volunteers. Those who know the Duke of Norfolk, who presided over the recent Commission, are well aware that his and their opinion is that the present state of the Auxiliary Forces is not reliable.

That being the case, is anything being done at the present time? Yes. Further inquiries are being made. A new Commission has been issued by the War Office, a Commission large enough for general concealment. I think there are twenty-three members. What is it they are going to inquire into? They are going to inquire into the question of the creation of a territorial Army. I should have thought the inquiries by Lord Elgin's Commission and by the Duke of Norfolk's Commission would have been sufficient; but not so. The War Office want more than that. Of the twenty-three members who constitute this new Commission, the eternal Lord Esher is at the head. I do not know who is at the bottom, but Lord Roberts is somewhere in the middle. And this Commission is to inquire about a territorial Army. I do not wish to enter into the question of a striking Army. I only hope that when you talk of a striking Army you do not intend that we Englishmen should go to the Continent and fight the nations in arms there. If you speak of a striking Army for India, it will not be by only an Army from England that you will hold India against Russia, but by the loyalty of the people of India to our Government and by the fighting races in that country. Remember what happened at the time of the Mutiny. Then it was not England that saved India; it was Lord Lawrence, by the organisation of the Sikhs. You must in the same way rely now on the native fighting races.

This Commission is to invent a territorial Army for this country. Why, my Lords, you have that Army now. What is the Militia? Is not that England's territorial Army? Has it not been so from time immemorial? Is it not so now? If you give it life and carry out the existing law, the Militia is the territorial Army of this country. You tried, indeed, to get rid of it two years ago and failed. Having tried to get rid of it by absorbing the Militia into the regular Army, you then tried to change its constitution, and whereas the Militia was raised for Home Defence only, and might go abroad voluntarily, you tried immediately before the dissolution to change its constitution absolutely, so that when a man was once in the Militia he could be ordered to go anywhere. That was a great revolution, from which we have been saved as yet, and the Government in that were supported by colonels of Militia regiments.

But, my Lords, you now have this force, and instead of trying to absorb it and alter its constitution, it would be better to give it its full powers. The existing law should be put into operation. I would rather quote other words than my own on this matter. What was said on this subject by a member of the present Government in 1902 hit the nail on the head—

> "Modified compulsory service at home and voluntary service abroad—such a scheme is the solution of all our difficulty. First of all, it solves the problem of recruiting. It also solves the question of expense. It is cheaper; it enables you to train the Militia and Volunteers, and bring them up to whatever state of efficiency you please."

That was what this gentleman said, and I think that any man who has studied this question will agree with it. In that sentence lies the whole military question, and if you only have the courage and manliness to propose it, the whole difficulty is solved in a way that every statesman from Pitt to Palmerston, and every soldier from Wellington to Wolseley, has believed to be sound. The speaker I have quoted went on, however, to say—

> "I realise that any system of compulsory service is now absolutely out of the question."

That was in 1902. In March this year a very distinguished Member of your Lordship's House, still more distinguished as Foreign Minister, to whom, as such, we cannot give too much praise, Lord Lansdowne, speaking in a Militia debate, said—

> "I have often ventured to tell your Lordships that in my opinion compulsory service was not likely to be regarded with favour in this country, and I for one shall base my hopes on the attempts of the Government to solve this Militia problem without having recourse to compulsion in any shape or form."

This, I thought at the time, was a remarkable speech coming from a noble Lord who, also when Secretary of State for War, I heard say that the power of ballot for the Militia was a power with which he would not readily part; and further it came more strangely from a noble Lord who, when Minister for War, laid on the Table of the House a Bill for improving and bringing up to date ballot for the Militia. It is true he left that Bill derelict, but, nevertheless, that was a strange assertion coming from Lord Lansdowne.

Now I would like to ask on what authority these two legislators I have quoted based their assertion that the nation would not agree to any form of compulsion. Have they ever asked the nation? Have they ever made a speech declaring it necessary and had it negatived at any public meeting or anywhere else? No, my Lords. They gratuitously libel the patriotism of the people by this statement on their part. I am going to make a statement to the contrary, and it rests on facts which cannot be controverted. I will take only three instances, though I have spoken on the subject in the country many times. The Shaftesbury Park Estate, near London, is one the whole of the houses on which were built, not out of the rates, but by working men themselves——

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH) dissented.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: The noble Earl shakes his head.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I do not want to interrupt my noble friend, but the Shaftesbury Park Estate was part of an estate belonging to the Artisan Industrial Dwellings Company; the houses were built by a company of which I happened to be a director.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: At any rate when I was addressing these working men I preached the doctrine that it was the duty of every Englishman to stand forth, if necessary compulsorily, in defence of his country. I will not trouble your Lordships with what I said, but the substance of it was this, that if any Government would have the patriotism and the courage to stand forth and say that in their opinion this was necessary to make the country safe from invasion, there was no doubt that it would be accepted. My statement was greeted with universal cheering. That was the view of working men in 1875. In 1892 I sent round a list of questions to Lords-Lieutenant, county authorities, urban authorities, provosts and chief magistrates. Some 400 circulars were sent out, and these two questions were asked—(1) Are you satisfied with the present state of things from the military point of view? (2) Do you think that the people in this country would accept, in a modified form, compulsory service for home defence? To the first question 75 per cent. answered "No," and to the latter two to one answered "Yes."

I now come to the third instance, which gives a contradiction to the libel upon our race. I thought I would test it in the best way one could, and in the month of October last I addressed a meeting in the market town of Haddington, the constituency of the present Secretary of State for War, and that meeting unanimously passed the following Resolution—

> "That this meeting approves of compulsory service in the Militia in the modified form suggested by Lord Wemyss, and is further of opinion that a matter so vital as home defence should never be made a Party question."

At that meeting, which was presided over by a Colonel of Volunteers, a letter was read from the Lord-Lieutenant—The Earl of Haddington—in which he said—

> "I agree that we must look principally to the Militia, which must be a real territorial Army. Although I am opposed to compulsory service in the Regular Army, I think the old system of ballot should be resorted to for the Militia, in which men should serve for some three years."

The reading of that letter was received with applause by Mr. Haldane's constituents. I therefore venture to think I have proved my case, which is that if the people of this country are patriotically appealed to they will answer the appeal, and that to say the contrary without any grounds except a foolish belief, a wrongful belief, is a libel, a cowardly, base libel on the people of this country. I stand to this, and defy contradiction.

I now wish to say a word or two upon the "Blue-water" school. We know full well that Mr. Balfour, when occupying the position of self-constituted head of our Defence Committee, plunged head over heels into the blue water, and I am sorry to see that Mr. Haldane has done the same thing. They are both swimming about in blue water. Your Lordships last year took a more rational and sensible view of this question. Here is the Resolution which your Lordships then passed, which I think is the really sound common-sense view of the question—a resolution endorsed by my October Haddington meeting—

> "It would be a danger to the realm and limit the power of the Navy as an offensive force in war to trust to it alone for home defence, and inasmuch as it is admitted that the Navy cannot guarantee us against so-called hostile raids, it is most needful that our land defence should at all times be such that no nation would ever attempt in any form a hostile landing on our shores."

That is the state in which we ought to be, and that is the state in which, as Lord Portmouth knows, we are not. It was this feeling which led your Lordships last year to pass that Resolution.

What is needed on the part of the War Office is this. In the first place trust, and not distrust, in the patriotism of the people. This stood you in good stead in 1859, when you summoned the Volunteers, whose loyalty you are still trading upon, looking to their being a striking force somehow abroad. They did not fail you then, nor did the patriotism of the people fail you in the late war in South Africa. I am not complaining of this Government in particular. They have not had time to do anything except to take a plunge into the blue water. Every Government since I have taken an interest in this subject, some fifty or sixty years, has been in fault in distrusting the people of the country. The existing law of compulsory service for home defence should be enforced. I do not think it is necessary that the present ballot, which takes in men from eighteen to forty-five, should be acted up to. All that I proposed in addressing the meeting at Haddington, and all that I propose now, is that when a boy reaches the age of nineteen he should take the chance once in his life of ballot for the Militia, and if struck serve for three years.

Do not count on time for preparation. Mr. Haldane seems inclined to take half-trained men, and believes he will have time to train them. Whoever comes here will come without a declaration of war. The enemy will come like a thief in the night, and you will have no time of any sort or kind for preparation. Do not trust to miniature rifle clubs, which may be all very well in their way. But teaching every boy in this country to hit a bullseye will not save you from the troops who will come in the night. Do not rely upon half-trained men. Rather than that, invite the volunteers who have served, who have been efficient, and who are under forty, to come forward as a reserve to be called upon to appear annually without uniform at the inspection of the regiment most convenient to them. That is better than the half-trained men whom Lord Roberts proposes. I asked the Colonel of my regiment to find out how many men would be able to turn up in that way. He said that 6,860 men had passed through the ranks of the London Scottish alone since 1859. I believe you would get a force of 500,000 men if need be, men who had all passed as fully trained men and earned the capitation grant.

Then I say, leave nothing to chance. You cannot leave the safety of the nation to chance. You must guard it in every possible way. Have ample guns up to date. You have not more than sixty guns up to date at this moment, whereas a German Army corps has eighty-nine. Your supply of long-shooting guns, which are essential, is very far from what it ought to be. You should render raids and invasion alike impossible through your land defences, thus freeing the Navy, and for every warship built by Germany build two, and maintain the Empire of the sea. Armaments should be taken out of the arena of party, like diplomacy. Sir Edward Grey, the present Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is following in the footsteps of that excellent Foreign Minister, his predecessor. What are diplomatists without an armed backing? They are nothing but blank cartridges, and the diplomatist who has a strong backing, like Sir Edward Grey at the present moment in the Turco-Egyptian crisis, will carry the day. Therefore, I say that both sides of the House ought to unite in agreeing as to what is necessary, and, having agreed, support each other in the policy of armament as well as diplomacy.

Lastly, when thoroughly prepared and impregnable on land, seek to bring about international disarmament. You cannot do that now. Germany would laugh in your face, for they know what your state is at the War Office. When you are strong at home you can with good faith approach foreign countries and ask them to enter into an agreement for disarmament, but not until you are in that position dare you face them. I should like all Governments to remember this, that they are but the trustees, the temporary, responsible trustees, of this great Empire, and that it is their first duty to keep the defences of the Empire in such a state that no nation would ever dream of a hostile landing on our shores.

VISCOUNT GALWAY: My Lords, I rise to say a few words on a matter

The Earl of Wemyss.

connected with the selection of the Committee referred to by the noble Earl who has just sat down. I wish to call attention to the way in which the Yeomanry force has been treated in the appointment of that Committee, and to say that there is not a single acting colonel of an English Yeomanry regiment appointed upon it. Considering the number of Yeomanry regiments there are in England, I think it is somewhat invidious that both the colonels of Yeomanry regiments in Scotland, for whom I have every respect, should be appointed on the Committee, whilst no English Yeomanry Colonel is included. I contend that this is not treating the Yeomanry force in England in the manner they deserve. I am not raising this question in any personal sense. I think your Lordships will realise that it is not quite the way to treat fifty-six English and Welsh Yeomanry regiments to appoint two acting colonels from Scotland on this Committee and none from England.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: My Lords, I do not know how far the noble Viscount who has just sat down was in order in making that appeal to me, but it is not my wish to stand upon any strict question of order. All I can say in reply to my noble friend is that I am unable to give him an answer at the present moment, but I will see that the views he has put forward are carefully considered in the proper quarter. We certainly do not wish to do, or seem to do, any injustice to any branch of the service.

With regard to the speech of the noble Earl, I am afraid I must maintain the attitude which I assumed on Friday. I cannot be drawn into giving your Lordships or my noble friend any figures of mobilisation, and, not knowing beforehand what figures the noble Lord intended to give, I am not prepared to refute them in detail. But on hearing on Friday from the lips of my noble friend the announcement that he intended to give to your Lordships the information which I had withheld, I took the first opportunity of consulting our military advisers at the War Office, and for the satisfaction of the public I wish to say that we have a mobilisation scheme under which it is hoped that we can mobilise as quickly as can any continental nation.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Why did you not say that on Friday?

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: Further than that, my Lords, schemes have been prepared for the defence of all defended ports, which it is confidently anticipated will be in a position to resist any sudden attack made upon them. I should like to add that these schemes have been drawn up with the full concurrence of the Admiralty, and that the two services are entirely in accord as to the measures which should be taken for the defence of the country. As regards the question of compulsory service in the Militia within the United Kingdom, the propositions which the noble Lord has brought before the House with his accustomed energy and ability are not unfamiliar to your Lordships. My noble friend has repeatedly brought up this question of the Militia Ballot. In 1899, the noble Marquess opposite, Lord Lansdowne, introduced a Militia Ballot Bill which was designed to make the machinery for enforcing the Act in case of necessity more workable; the Second Reading was not, however, proceeded with. In 1903, the Duke of Devonshire informed my noble friend that it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with his Militia Ballot Bill. Since that time, no serious allusion has been made to the prospect of any Bill relating to the Ballot being brought forward, from either side of the House, and I ought to state that it is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce any Bill of such a character.

I was glad to have the opportunity, which was afforded to me on a previous occasion by my noble friend Lord Hardinge, to assure the House that it is the wish and intention of His Majesty's Government to raise both the *status* and the position of the Militia. We are anxious to give them the character, by any future measures which we are considering, but which I am not in a position at present to state to the House, of a highly organised military force, believing as we do that the Militia, as was proved by the South African War, is the force which is best adapted as a support to the Regular Army, not merely for services at home, but abroad.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Compulsory?

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I will come to that point. At the same time, I would wish to repeat what I have said on a previous occasion, that we are fully alive to the necessity of maintaining in the Militia their own separate traditions and *esprit de corps*. We do not desire that they should be absorbed in the Regular Army, but we are anxious that they should, both by their organisation and training, be prepared to take the field in self-contained units.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: By order?

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I understand that the noble Earl is opposed to conscription.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: What do you call conscription?

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I mean by conscription what your Lordships and the majority of the people in the country mean.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Perhaps I may explain that I am opposed to conscription to any extent for the Army. I am opposed to conscription for the Militia, if that conscription means that you are to order them, like the Army, abroad. I hold that conscription should take the form of ballot for the Militia, the old constitutional force of the country.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I think I fairly stated the case when I said that the noble Earl is opposed to conscription. But, be that as it may, His Majesty's Government believes that this proposal of the Militia Ballot is open to objections quite as practical as conscription, plus, if I may be allowed to say so, the additional inconvenience which would arise from the uncertainty to our labouring population, as well as to employers of labour, as to who would and who would not be liable. Any attempt to enforce the ballot in time of peace would, in our opinion, have the effect of a capricious interference with the industrial life of the country.

My noble friend in his Notice has associated the Militia especially with the question of home defence. I am not disposed to look to the Militia for home defence, as I am to the other Auxiliary Forces. The noble Earl has, this afternoon, attacked what I suppose, for purposes of brevity I may call the "blue-water school." Now, I wish to dissociate myself entirely from what I may call the views of the "blue-water extremists." I wish to repudiate as such what I may describe as the "dinghy theory." I do wish, however, most emphatically to affirm the principle upon which rests, in my mind, the only intelligent basis for national defence—that the Navy is, as it always has been, the natural guardian, and the first and only reliable defence for the United Kingdom against oversea invasion. So long as our present relative naval strength is maintained—that is to say, our relative strength as compared with the naval forces of other countries—there is no need for other provision against this form of danger. This principle has become the property of responsible advisers of the Crown of both political parties. It formed the basis of a most interesting, speech to which my noble friend incidentally referred, from the late Prime Minister in the House of Commons. The principle of that speech has been accepted by His Majesty's Government——

The Earl of WEMYSS: Not by the House of Lords.

The Earl of PORTSMOUTH: The principle of that speech has been accepted by His Majesty's Government, and, as my noble friend, I think, will remember, has been re-affirmed in most cogent language by the Secretary of State for War in another place. To assume the position that we do not and cannot rely upon the Navy, and that we must strive, as was suggested by the speech of my noble friend, after an impossible compromise between naval and military defence is, to my mind, hopelessly to confuse national policy. Our naval expenditure is, and must be, a very heavy one; if it is only to be partly effective in securing us against invasion, if that is the idea which is to be instilled into the public mind, I believe that the only practical result will be that the taxpayers will refuse to sanction a heavy naval expenditure, which we maintain is necessary to our national safety, but can only be defended on the ground of its affording, not only protection to our commerce on the high seas and to the scattered members of the Empire against invasion, but also to guard our shores at home. Oversea invasion has never been, and never will be, carried out in face of a Navy exercising control at sea, and it is vital to our existence that we should be prepared to assist this control. The greater includes the less, and in discharging its primary duty, our Navy will necessarily accomplish the smaller task of defending our shores against invasion.

It is a matter of recent history that the extravagant expenditure upon fortifications which was incurred under Lord Palmerston's policy, much of which expenditure is now absolutely wasted because the guns and forts are perfectly obsolete or in the wrong place, did distract the public mind from the importance of our Navy, and did necessitate our having to remedy the condition of our Navy by great efforts and by large expenditure. The Navy Estimates had dropped far below those of the Army, and it was only in the Estimates of 1895–96 that the expenditure of the Navy rose to that of the Army. I should like to recall your Lordship's attention to the action of Parliament during, within modern history, the most anxious years of our national life. It is a curious thing to note that in 1786, when our Navy was not either actually or relatively so strong as it is now, but when the nation knew what war implied, in spite of an agitation to expend large sums of money upon fortifications, in spite of our having recently confronted a combination of four powers—France, America, Spain and Holland—in addition to the menace of a combination of Northern States, the House of Commons at that time declined to support heavy demands for military expenditure against oversea invasion, even though these demands were urged by Mr. Pitt himself. I must decline to admit, as a risk which is so reasonably probable as to be worth our considering, any invasion of these islands, so long as we have the command of the sea, and I wish to reaffirm the memorable words of the Duke of Devonshire at the Guildhall on December 3rd, 1896, that—

> "The maintenance of sea supremacy has been assumed as the basis of the system of Imperial Defence against attack from over the sea."

If it is contended that we ought to provide against the possibility of what happened in South Africa—namely, that some foreign power or powers could do as we did, pour troops into this island in a continuous stream as we did into South Africa, unmolested and undisturbed from the sea; if that is to be guarded against as not only a possible but a probable contingency, it is perfectly obvious that the people of this country must be prepared to accept a similar military system such as prevails on the Continent. We must be prepared to accept the direct and the indirect cost of becoming a nation in arms. I do not myself believe that that is a sacrifice which this country is prepared to make, and I think it would be very wrong to ask the country to make it, because I believe it would be a perfectly unnecessary sacrifice. Nor is there one particle of evidence from the history of this country that our Army has ever been or ever could be our weapon against invasion.

The history of that Army is a splendid one—I think I may say one which is unparalleled in the history of the world. It has conquered for us an Empire greater than that of Rome. But everyone of its long and brilliant series of operations has been carried on beyond our naval frontier. If it has fought with vigour and confidence in every part of the world it has done so because it has known that behind it stood the Navy, which is the real defensive force of the nation. I must reaffirm the principle that we must look to the Navy and not to the Army to secure us against invasion. At the same time, my Lords, the Army Council are fully alive to the danger which was referred to by my noble friend. We feel that raids, though not probable, ought to be fully considered and amply provided against.

Now, I should like to analyse what is meant by a raid. What would be the conditions under which a raid could be made by a foreign Power to the best advantage, and what is the sort of raid which it would be worth their while to make? It is, according to the opinion of our military advisers, most probable that the raider would have to sacrifice the whole of a raiding force. This country is densely intersected by well-equipped railways, which, on the alarm being given, would be able to bring forces together against the raider. We have heard a great deal about supposed raids upon undefended places, such as Brighton and Hastings. Suppose a successful raid took place on places of that kind. Considerable local inconvenience might be caused; possibly some loot might be carried off; but the exploit would be merely that of the buccaneer. No serious damage would have been inflicted upon this country as a fighting power. In fact, an outrage of that kind would create such an intensity of feeling as to evoke a martial spirit where such had not existed before. If an enemy is to make a raid, I think we must presume, having regard to the fact that he will have to run a very serious risk of losing his raiding force, that he will attack some port where during a short period he might hope to render very serious damage to the national resources of the country. Of course, if an enemy were in undisturbed possession for a few hours of, say, the dockyard at Portsmouth or at Elswick, on the Tyne, very serious damage would be done to the fighting efficiency of the country.

I shall not, of course—it would not be consistent with the public service—make public any details, but I should like to assure my noble friend that experiments have been recently made with a view to ascertaining how long it would take to land a force of 10,000 men, with their guns, unopposed. The result of those experiments has been to show that it would be impossible to land any force of that kind without interruption, provided that the Channel Fleet was within touch of our shores. Let us take, however, the most favourable circumstances for a raid. During a war it is inconceivable that the Channel Fleet would be out of touch with these shores; let us suppose, therefore, that either Portsmouth or the Tyne were raided by some foreign Power during a time of profound peace when there was no cloud over international relations; that they could make all their preparations in private, and that our agents abroad had not the slightest suspicion that anything exceptional was taking place. Let us suppose that on some fine summer morning, with the Channel Fleet at the extremity of its orbit, a hostile force was suddenly to appear off Portsmouth or the Tyne. Under circumstances of that kind—the most favourable for a raid—we should still have several hours to summon the naval war ships that we now keep by policy at the home ports requiring only to raise steam to be fit for action, and we should still have several hours to reinforce our garrisons. I do not wish to throw over the eyes of the public any bandage of false security, but surely, my Lords, unreasonable pessimism leads to nothing practical and only obstructs the support which is needed for reasonable and moderate schemes. The sea is no impassable barrier, but in war it is surely reasonable probabilities, and not every improbable possibility, which have to be taken into consideration.

I do not know why my noble friend has, as it were, coupled the Militia specially with home defence, considering the numerous cases in which it has rendered distinguished services abroad. I look to the Militia much more as a support and adjunct to the Regular Army for service over-sea in times of great national emergency. I look to the Volunteers as the main resource for our home defence. I should like to see—and we are considering the matter very fully—a scheme worked out for utilising the Volunteers for coast defence against raids, not in a vague, indefinite, and general way, but in accordance with a plan by which the coast within a certain distance of those places of which, perhaps, Portsmouth and the Tyne are typical, and of which others exist, such as Barrow, Liverpool and Pembroke Dock, and where an enemy in possession for a few hours could strike at the fighting efficiency of the nation, could be protected by the Volunteers.

In these places on Saturday afternoons the Volunteers should practice with the heavy guns in the coast forts, so as to be perfectly familiar and ready to handle them at any time. I attach great importance to the utilisation of the Volunteers for coast defence not only as a sedentary force, but as organised mobile bodies capable of being moved rapidly to any threatened point. Above all, if some such scheme were evolved, and I believe it is practicable, owing to our large and highly efficient railway systems, you will have given to the Volunters a part in our national life, with definite objects at which to aim. The Volunteers are a highly intelligent class of men, and they will take pride in the knowledge that they are an integral part of the national strength, and are trusted with specific duties of an important nature.

To sum up, I think we can reasonably look to the Navy for defence against invasion. To protect ourselves against raids where raids would touch the power of the nation we must, I think, rely upon the local fortifications, assisted possibly in some cases by submarines, and upon an organisation which would bring into play the resources of our railway system and the intelligence, activity, and fighting efficiency of the Volunteers.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, the noble Earl who initiated this debate, in a speech of a somewhat discoursive but extremely vigorous nature, expressed opinions which we have frequently heard in this House before. My noble friend who replied for the Government has done so in a very elaborate written or printed treatise, which deals largely with questions of high Imperial strategy, but which I venture to think has very little to do with the Notice on the Paper, which really concerns the Militia. It is not so long ago that we had a debate upon the Militia and upon the parlous condition in which that force now finds itself, a condition upon which I submit the speech we have just listened to throws remarkably little light. If any further facts were needed to prove the parlous condition in which the Militia now is, I might quote the case of my noble friend whom I see sitting upon the Front Opposition Bench, Lord Salisbury, who is, or was a short time ago, a colonel of a Militia regiment, and who offered 2s. 6d. a head for recruits just as though they were plovers' eggs or some delicacy of that description.

With regard to what has fallen from the noble Lord who represents the Government, I submit that my noble friend Lord Wemyss has received no answer at all. The noble Earl devoted a considerable portion of his reply principally to exposing the weakness of the Militia ballot, with which my noble friend Lord Wemyss is so closely associated. So far as I know, although I am always particularly anxious to agree with my noble friend Lord Wemyss whenever it is possible, he is practically the only person in this country that I am acquainted with who is in favour of the Militia ballot. It is altogether an antiquated and exploded idea, and therefore it was quite unnecessary on the part of Lord Portsmouth to assure the House that the Government had no intention of bringing in a Bill introducing this principle.

The real reply to the complaints about the Militia and to the general unsatisfactory state of the Auxiliary Forces, is the appointment of that Committee which has been already alluded to this afternoon by my noble friend Lord Galway, and it is perfectly marvellous, to my mind, to notice the sort of superstitious veneration which appears to be felt by innumerable people in this country with regard to these eternal Committees and Commissions. I am disposed to believe that if we were told that a foreign army had landed in this country, and if the Minister representing the War Office were to come down to this House and announce that a Committee had been appointed with the noble Viscount Lord Esher at the head of it to study the question, that would reassure a vast number of persons in this country. For my part, I confess that I have ceased to feel any confidence at all in these repeated Committees and Commissions, and were I to imitate the somewhat uncourtly language of the present Prime Minister, I should be inclined to exclaim, with regard to all these Committees and Commissions, "Enough of this foolery."

If the Committee referred to this afternoon were composed of really sound people—and by that I mean sound according to my own ideas—I might entertain some faint hope that something useful would result from it; but I observe with pain and surprise that it is an extremely unsatisfactory Committee, because there are persons upon it who are what I can only denominate fanatical supporters of the voluntary system. I observe, for instance, that my friend Sir Howard Vincent is a Member of this Committee. Well, Sir Howard Vincent's weakness is that he thinks the country, and the whole British Empire so far as that goes, exists for the benefit of the Volunteers, and more especially for that particular battalion which he used to command.

I observe that there are also upon this Committee Members of this House, personal friends of my own, with whose views I regret to say I am not at all in sympathy, and whom also, I am afraid, I must look upon as unsound persons. But there is one person upon it who is more dangerous and more pernicious than anybody else living in this country, and that is the editor of the *Spectator*, Mr. Strachey, who is responsible for the preposterous and absurd doctrine that all that we require in this country is a large number of persons with broad-brimmed hats, with rifles hanging up on pegs, which rifles they are going to take down at the necessary moment and shoot the invaders, and then return to their ordinary vocations. To me the appearance of these names upon a Committee is of sinister import, and I am afraid that very little substantial benefit is likely to accrue from it.

I should like to know what there is to inquire about. If you wish to know what the Auxiliary Forces want, even I can tell you that. There is hardly anybody in this country who can read and write who cannot tell you what the Auxiliary Forces want. I could put it in blunt language in one sentence. What the Auxiliary Forces want is quite reasonable; they want more money, and they want to do the same amount of work and no more than they are doing at present. Everyone who has had official experience knows that this is perfectly true, and I do not see that they are to be blamed for it, considering that the vast majority of the able-bodied men in this country do nothing whatever. If you want to know what ought to be done you have got it in black and white. For two years the Norfolk Commission sat examining into the condition of the Auxiliary Forces, and you have got their Report upon record. I am almost sick of referring to this Report, but I think I must even once more trouble the House with what they actually said, because in my humble opinion this is the only Commission and the only Report which ever has been or will be of any permanent value to this country.

The Norfolk Commission reported that if we wanted, as we professed we wanted, a home defence army, capable, in the absence of the whole or the greater portion of the Regular forces, of protecting the country against invasion, it could only be raised and maintained on the principle that it is the duty of every citizen of military age and sound physique to be trained for the national defence and to take part in it should emergency arise. In that you have all that you will ever find out, and, so long as you ignore this finding, all your Commissions will do you no good whatever. The only result will be that you will add to the mass of literature on the subject, and you may possibly send up your Estimates, but the the long and the short of it will be that we shall find ourselves in precisely the same position as we are in at the present moment.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lord, I only rise to point out that the splendid deeds performed by our Army, which the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War so justly praised, could not have been done without the assistance of the Merchant Service; but, though the Merchant Service is a most important auxiliary force, it has been absolutely neglected.

*THE EARL OF DUNDONALD: My Lords, the country is indebted to the noble Earl for the persistent way in which he has brought before your Lordships the inadequate state of the defences of this country. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War has told us that expert opinion is against the possibility of any largely successful raid on the shores of this country. May I recall your Lordships' recollection to instances where expert opinion has been wrong, instances which have occurred within the last five years? How many men were considered necessary by expert opinion for the defeat of the Boers? How many men did expert opinion state could be successfully moved on the line of railway into Manchuria? I had the honour, my Lords, of commanding the Natal Volunteers in driving the Boers out of Natal. As we came to homestead after homestead that had been devastated, with the little relics of the home torn into fragments, I heard the Natal men say, "When we go back home after this war is over we shall have compulsory service in Natal." Compulsory service is instituted now in Natal, and in place of the 600 or 700 Volunteers which Natal could find for the South African War, she can now put her hand upon several thousand armed men. Natal learnt her lesson and applied it. I do not think it is necessary for this country to go as far as Natal in instituting compulsory service, but I do consider that she would be wise in compulsorily training the youth of the country to military discipline and to a knowledge of the rifle, so that if occasion required they might flock to the colours with, at all events, a certain knowledge of the duties of the soldier.

I consider myself that our insular position will always give us time for a certain measure of preparation. There have been, or rather there are, two schools of thought in this country which have prevented adequate military defence. One school of thought is composed of those who believe that it is impossible to make a soldier without long and continuous training. The other school of thought is opposed to all military service whatsoever, as it considers that it leads people in the direction of militarism. These two schools of thought have prevented this country being freed from all danger of aggression; but has not the time now come when a third school of thought should arise which realises that an Empire can be but a paper Empire unless it is defended by an armed and organised manhood, a school of thought which should insist upon the Government organising the people, not in the direction of militarism, but in the direction of common sense, organising them so that the manhood of the nation can be utilised in a cheap and efficient manner.

Whatever form of military service may be instituted in this country the one great difficulty that any Government will experience is in the provision of leaders. Leaders cannot be improvised, and it is curious to note in this connection that this country possesses a larger leisured class who have not to earn their daily bread than any other nation in the world. I trust that the Government, if leaders sufficient for our Auxiliary forces do not present themselves, will institute a little compulsion in the direction of the ballot on those gentlemen who are possessed of sufficient means so that if these were killed in action their families at all events would not be dependent upon the rates for their support.

It is six and a half years since what is called the black week of December, 1899.

Is the country adequately defended yet? Have those years been utilised to the best advantage? We may not get another six and a half years in which to muddle and waste our time. The present Government has a great chance of creating a citizen Army on cheap and efficient lines. From what I hear I believe that the present Secretary of State for War is inclined in the direction which I have indicated. I trust this is so. If it is, and if the Government support him and we do defend our Empire with its armed manhood, I am sure this Government will deserve the thanks and the confidence of the country.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, after the very full, and, if I may say so, very interesting, description of our naval and military position which was given by the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War, and of the method which he conceives should be pursued, and which I humbly agree should be pursued, in dealing with it, I shall not detain your Lordships for more than a few minutes on the present occasion. I merely rise to express my agreement, for what it is worth, with the opinions which the noble Earl put forward, and to wish him success in carrying them to practical conclusions. We are getting quite accustomed to the sort of debate that we have had this afternoon. There are a great many schools of thought in connection with the idea of compulsory service, and we have had speeches from representatives of three of those schools this afternoon. One cannot help being struck by the considerable manner in which the various schools of thought disagree among themselves. The noble Earl who initiated this discussion is in favour of a particular form of compulsory service — ballot for the Militia alone—and I think I gathered from a chance remark he made last year in the course of a similar debate that he would like to see the Volunteers abolished altogether. My noble friend Lord Newton, who took the noble Earl Lord Wemyss to task for standing alone in the opinion he holds, seems to glory in a similar isolation himself.

LORD NEWTON: I am by no means isolated.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: The noble Lord, if I may use the phrase without any intention of being offensive, is a "whole hogger" in the matter of compulsory service. The noble and gallant Earl who has just sat down occupies, I think, a midway position, a position in which I know he finds support in certain uninfluential quarters. He favours, not whole hoggism, not ballot for the Militia alone, but some compulsion being exerted upon the youth of the country. I say at once that I have no sympathy with the believers in any of these schools of thought; and I think we should none of us be called upon to regard the question of compulsory service too seriously until there is at any rate some sort of agreement amongst the various Members of your Lordships' House and those interested in the question outside upon the main tenets of the policy.

I only rose to refer to two points in the speech of the noble Earl who initiated this discussion. The noble Earl is continually urging upon us that we have no right to say that putting in force the ballot in this country would be unpopular, because we have never tried it. To that I answer that our ancestors tried it and found it extremely unpopular. In the middle of the eighteenth century the Ballot Act was passed and put into force, and there were riots all over the country at once. So serious did those riots become that history relates that two men were hanged at York for what was called obstructing the Ballot Act. My sympathy is entirely with those two men, and although I do not think that I could pledge myself to go so far in resisting the Ballot Act if the noble Earl and his colleagues put it forward tomorrow, I think I can safely say that I should make great efforts to encourage somebody else to get himself hanged in the same cause.

Another claim which is made by the noble Earl, and which has been made before on several occasions, I should like to refer to for one moment. He claims that the Motion, part of which he read, which was accepted by your Lordships last year, pledged the House to a decision contrary to the policy laid down by my right hon. friend the late Prime Minister last year, and upon which His Majesty's present advisers have set their seal. He claims, in fact, that it is a rebuff of the blue-water school as moderate men understand it. The Resolution of last year was very cleverly drawn. I read it, I might almost say, hundreds of times in the hope of being able to find even one word which would perhaps have encouraged us to ask your Lordships not to accept it, but after a very careful perusal I could find not one single word which was contrary to what we believe to be the true principles of our naval and military position. It was upon that basis that His Majesty's Government last year recommended its acceptance to the House. I presume it was on that basis that noble Lords who then sat on this side of the House offered no objection to it, and it is in that spirit I claim your Lordships should always regard it.

THE ROYAL DRAGOONS.

*THE EARL OF ERROLL rose to call attention to the promotion of an Infantry captain to a majority in the Royal Dragoons; and to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War whether, if no regimental officers were available, there were no Cavalry officers on the list for accelerated promotion, or who for other reasons, were eligible to fill the vacancy.

The noble Earl said: My Lords, in putting the Question which stands in my name I should like to assure your Lordships, in the first instance, that I am actuated by no personal motives whatever. I have no interest in this case one way or the other, and I have merely brought it before your Lordship's House in what I consider to be the best interests of the Cavalry. Nor have I any wish to criticise the gallant officer to whom my question refers. On the contrary, I believe he is a most excellent staff officer and has rendered valuable service to his country. He is a Member of the Distinguished Service Order, and has passed through the Staff College; but what I object to, and what every Cavalry officer I have come across during the last fortnight or three weeks resents, is the promotion of an Infantry captain over the heads of highly-trained and efficient cavalry soldiers who have proved their quality by prolonged service in the field.

This is a practice which casts reflection on every officer in the Cavalry and is extremely detrimental to that branch. It gives rise to feelings of insecurity, and drives many good men out of the service. For this alone it is a matter to be deplored. It is of the greatest importance, especially in a voluntary Army, that the officers should be contented and have a feeling that they are being fairly and properly treated. Unless this feeling exists the service is bound to become unpopular, and, taking into consideration the great difficulty we have at this time in getting officers for the Cavalry, it is of the greatest importance that a feeling of security should be encouraged amongst the officers, and a feeling that their interests and prospects are not the sport of chance, or, worse still, of favouritism. I can conceive nothing worse for the recruiting of the Cavalry than that a feeling of insecurity as to their prospects should exist among the seniors.

As we have just heard from the noble and gallant Earl on the Cross Benches, Lord Dundonald, this question of officers is the greatest problem you have to face in military matters, and it is, therefore, highly important that it should be dealt with wisely. It is essential that no feeling of injustice or even of soreness should be allowed to exist. I am perfectly well aware that the two senior captains in the Royal Dragoons had not passed for their promotion. They had passed in everything but one subject, and the Army Council, I believe, ruled them out of court on that account. But, my Lords, I think there were special circumstances to be considered in this case. The vacancy occurred in the regiment, on February 2nd, and Major Wood was not gazetted to the regiment till March 14th. During this interval, between the vacancy and the gazetting of Major Wood, these two officers had been up (on March 1st) and had passed their examinations, and I think that, considering the services these officers had rendered to the country, some slight period of grace might have been allowed them. Captain the Hon. A. Hamilton Russell served in South Africa in 1899–1902, his service including the relief of Ladysmith, actions at Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaal Kranz, and operations in Natal, Orange River Colony, the Transvaal and Cape Colony. He was shot through the leg and body, was mentioned in despatches, and received the Queen's medal, 3 clasps, and the King's medal, 2 clasps. Captain H. D.

McNeill served in South Africa, 1899–1902, his service including the relief of Ladysmith, actions at Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaal Kranz, Tugela Heights and Pieters Hill, and operations in Natal, Orange River Colony, and the Transvaal. He was twice mentioned in despatches and received the Queen's medal, six clasps, and the King's medal, two clasps. I think that such records should have entitled these officers to some latitude, especially as they happened to be eligible before there was time for the gazetting of Major Wood.

But supposing that these two officers are put out of the court, the third captain—Captain T. M. S. Pitt—who came next to them, had passed his examination. Captain Pitt served in South Africa, 1899–1902, his service including the relief of Ladysmith, actions at Spion Kop, Vaal Kranz, Tugela Heights and Pieters Hill, and operations in Natal, Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. He was three times mentioned in despatches and received the Queen's medal, six clasps, and the King's medal, two clasps. Altogether there were nineteen officers in this regiment superseded, all of whom had war service, and several of whom were mentioned in despatches. Major Wood, I may say, also had an honourable record in South Africa. He was present at all the earlier battles up to, I think, Maggersfontein, as an adjutant of mounted Infantry, and he was present at the relief of Kimberley; but I think he was only sixteen months in South Africa altogether. During nine months of that time he was acting as Military Secretary to Sir F. Forestier-Walker at the Cape, so that his service at the front was of six months' duration, whilst the officers who were superseded had solid service of three years at the front.

I believe it is the opinion at the War Office that these officers had too little service to be promoted, and it is said that the average of service for promotion to cavalry majors is fourteen years. On reference to the Army List I find that there are six majors serving at the present moment who are junior to the two officers to whom I have referred. General Sir John French, I believe, got his majority in nine years and his regiment in fifteen years. Therefore, I think it would be absurd to say that officers who have twelve years experience, including three years in command of a squadron on active service, have too little service to be promoted. What do the War Office do? They say—"Twelve years experience in the Cavalry is not enough to allow us to promote these men. We will promote somebody with no experience at all." It is quite impossible to set a service of three or four months with the mounted Infantry against the three years that these officers served in the field. This practice would not, I think, be so objectionable if it only referred to subalterns or to junior captains. They would have time and opportunity to learn their business before they were put into responsible positions, but a squadron leader is in a very important position. He has to instruct his men in every branch of the service, and it is of the greatest importance that he should have considerable experience of Cavalry work for many years. It can hardly be put forward that a captain of Infantry of seventeen years can have this experience, or that a few months service in the mounted Infantry would give it to him.

Now, what will be the position of this officer when he first joins the Royal Dragoons? The first thing they will do with him will be to put him into the riding school with the recruits—not, I venture to think, a very dignified post for a field officer. Then there is another contention, that Staff College Officers are much wanted in the cavalry. No amount of Staff College education will make a good cavalry leader. I should like to point out, as examples of successful Cavalry leaders during the late war, Sir John French, General Scobel, and General Rimington, who never passed through this course at all. There is another reason why Staff College Officers are not always an advantage to the Cavalry or to any regiment. It is that they very naturally get Staff billets and go away from the regiment altogether. There is a very good example of this in the Royal Dragoons, where the senior Major at the present moment, who, by the way, also came from an Infantry regiment originally, has been on the Staff since 1897, during which time he has been absolutely useless to the regiment.

It is not without considerable reluctance that I have brought this question before your Lordships. I fully appreciate the objection to bringing matters of discipline before Parliament. I admit that under ordinary circumstances these questions are far better dealt with by the military authorities, but I venture to submit that this is not an ordinary question. I think there is a principle involved in it which is vital to the Cavalry. I contend that if it were inadvisable to give the step regimentally, some Cavalry captain of experience could have been found whose appointment would not have given rise to these disadvantages, and a feeling of injustice would have been avoided. The Selection Board ought to be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Their task is admittedly a difficult one, and I think they should study to avoid any action which is likely to give rise to feelings of injustice or favouritism.

It would be idle, however, to conceal from your Lordships that there is in the Army, and in the Cavalry especially, a very strong feeling at the present moment that Major Wood's promotion was not justified by the circumstances. Rightly or wrongly this feeling has got abroad, and I venture to think it is very detrimental to the Service. On his promotion Major Wood passes over four captains in the Devonshire regiment, he passes over thirteen captains in the Cavalry, and 588 captains in the Army. It is not only the senior officers whose promotion is delayed, but the promotion of every officer right through the regiment. The regiment was, I am told, very highly reported on by the Inspector-General of Cavalry in India, and, as your Lordships are aware, this result must be due in a great measure to the exertions of the squadron leaders. How has this been rewarded? The work of the squadron leaders has been rewarded by their promotion being stopped. This is hardly an inducement to further efforts. If officers are so treated no one can be surprised that the service is unpopular.

Then, my Lords, the sense of injustice in this particular case has been intensified by a statement of the Secretary of State for War in which he told us that efficiency should always be rewarded. The efficiency in this case, as I said just now, has been rewarded by the stoppage of promotion. The fact is that since the abolition of the Inspector-General of Cavalry there is nobody at headquarters of sufficient weight to look after the interests of the Cavalry properly. If General Keith Fraser or General Sir George Luck had been at the War Office in their old positions and with their old authority, I venture to think they would have entered a very vigorous protest against this promotion and it never would have taken place. The only real way of rectifying this injustice which has been perpetrated on the cavalry would be to cancel the appointment, but perhaps this is more than I can hope for. The War Office, as I contend, has made a bad mistake and perpetrated an injustice, but I conclude they will stick to their guns. I confess I do not expect to get very much satisfaction out of the question, but I have a faint hope that the practice may be discontinued in the future. I should like also to say that this practice is unknown in any Continental Army. My noble friend, Lord Basing, who commanded the Royal Dragoons throughout the whole of the war, will state to your Lordships the feeling that exists in the regiment.

LORD BASING: My Lords, before the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War replies to the Question which has been put to him, I trust he will excuse me if I make a few remarks on a subject which very closely concerns me, as I commanded the Royal Dragoons right up to the date of this promotion. No doubt outside promotion is in many cases both desirable and necessary, but I think you will agree that in every case the special circumstances should be most closely considered, and more especially the state of efficiency of the regiment at the time. Nothing is so disheartening as for good work to be ignored, and this is especially the case in the higher ranks. Speaking from my experience as a Cavalry officer, I utterly fail to see how the promotion of an infantry officer to be squadron major can be other than detrimental to the efficiency of the cavalry.

What would be said if a selected infantry Staff College officer were put to command a battery of artillery? Yet this is a precisely similar appointment. The position of Cavalry squadron leader requires just as much technical knowledge and skill as that of a battery commander. I venture to think that had the Selection Board considered the humiliating position in which the officers of this regiment would be placed, or had they considered the record and the claims of the officers who were passed over, the appointment would never have been made. The rule is made, and it becomes the law of the Medes and Persians. Because a senior captain is three weeks late in passing his examination, a great hardship and injustice is done to all the junior ranks. Captain McNeill, the second senior captain, has had a most distinguished record. He was not only five years squadron leader and several times recommended for promotion for gallantry in the field, but, more than that, he has been several times recommended since the war for accelerated promotion. Yet his claims are set aside.

I have heard it said that the War Office finds some difficulty in obtaining a supply of Cavalry officers. Can it be wondered at? What encouragement do they get? I can assure your Lordships that nothing damps ardour and zeal so much as merit unrecognised, and I venture to say that if this state of things is to improve the Selection Board must deal with Cavalry officers with more tact and consideration.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: My Lords, I am sorry that any noble Lord should suppose that any injustice has been done. I must decline to discuss the merits or demerits of certain Cavalry officers, and I rather regret that the noble Lord has brought forward the question in this way. This is a matter the responsibility for which rests with the Selection Board. Major Wood was appointed on the recommendation of the Selection Board, and, of course, your Lordships will understand, if you have promotion by selection, that someone must be passed over. I regret very much that the noble Earl used the word favouritism, which I think was very ill-advised. When I tell your Lordships who compose the Selection Board, I think you will agree that unless a very strong case is made out the matter should not be brought before Parliament. The Board consists of Field Marshal the Duke of Connaught——

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: He was not there.

* THE EARL OF ERROLL: He was not in the country.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: But he is not the only Member of the Board. There are other officers upon it who, I venture to say, are quite as much above suspicion of favouritism as the noble Duke, the Duke of Connaught himself. There are on the Board all the general officers in the great commands, and there is the Military Secretary to the Secretary of State. I am sure it is not desirable for us to discuss the qualifications of those distinguished men. Unless we have a clear and positive case of something having been done contrary to justice or in a spirit of favouritism, I think we ought to accept, as we have promotion by selection, the recommendations of the Selection Board. I should like to mention that the officer selected, Major Wood, has passed the Staff College, has had sixteen and a half years experience, and was adjutant and staff officer of mounted infantry in South Africa.

* THE EARL OF ERROLL: Will the noble Earl say how long he was adjutant?

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I cannot give that information; I have not got it. The average service at which Cavalry captains are now obtaining the rank of major is fourteen years and three months. Major Wood, therefore, had two and a half years' service more. There are only, I am informed, eight captains who have passed for promotion in the Cavalry who are recommended for accelerated promotion, and their average service is just over eleven years. Only one officer has above the average service at which the rank is now being reached, and he has not passed the Staff College. In giving these figures to the House I do not wish for one moment to imply that I think it is befitting that we should go behind the decision of the Selection Board.

LORD METHUEN: My Lords, I had no intention when I came down to the House of taking part in this discussion to-night, but remarks have been made by the noble Earl opposite regarding the Selection Board which I have not the slightest intention to let pass in silence. Fortunately for myself, I was absent from that Board on leave, and, therefore, like the Duke of Connaught, I have had nothing whatever to do with this promotion; but it is most unfair to say that we on the Selection Board have anything whatever to do with favouritism. It so happens that Sir John French is a member of that Board, and I do not suppose that there is any one who holds the confidence of the Cavalry more than Sir John French, and he at any rate is responsible, with the other members who were present, for the appointment. The noble Earl says that we are now in want of the advice of the Director-General of Cavalry. On the contrary, we have before us in connection with every promotion in the Cavalry the Director of Cavalry, General Baden-Powell, and he has the confidence of the Army and the Cavalry.

*THE EARL OF ERROLL: I said there was no Inspector-General. General Baden-Powell is not Inspector-General, and consequently has not the weight and authority that the officer had who used to hold that position.

LORD METHUEN: I traverse that statement entirely. General Baden-Powell has our confidence, and we always listen to what he says. Whenever we make a promotion the head of the Department concerned attends, and we listen to him before giving the appointment. As regards the promotion in question, we never make any difference with regard to an officer who is not qualified at the time to take the step, and that must be thoroughly well known to Lord Basing. If we once made an exception and allowed an officer to get his step who had not passed for promotion at the time that step was vacant, we should never hear the end of it. I think that a thoroughly fair rule, and the officers of the Royal Dragoons have simply themselves to blame for not being ready with a senior officer to take the step that was vacant. Let me most strongly protest, in the interests of discipline, that this question should come up, either before the House of Lords or in another place. I do not believe that I go to the Selection Board at any time without losing a friend, and all I can tell you is that if your Lordships are to bring forward questions in Parliament you only render our position ten times more difficult. I can assure you that we carry out our work to the best of our ability in the interests of the Army and quite free from all favouritism.

Lord Metheun.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I am not going to enter into the merits of this case, but I wish to add a few words to the protest of the noble and gallant Lord who has just sat down. I feel strongly that unless there is some case of gross misconduct, corruption, or favouritism to be brought before Parliament, it is most inadvisable that the proceedings of the Selection Board should be questioned in this House or in the other House of Parliament. I do not say that it is contrary to order, but I do think it is calculated to break down the system of selection; and while I can quite understand the feelings of the two noble and gallant Lords opposite on a case which may affect themselves or their friends, I do enter my serious protest against proceedings of this kind tending to criticise the conduct of a Board which I believe to be entirely above criticisms of that kind.

*VISCOUNT RIDLEY: My Lords, some noble Lords seem to think that my noble friend in raising this Question suggested that this was a case of favouritism. I did not hear him say that, and I think I shall be within the recollection of many noble Lords when I say that he did not raise it on that ground. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary gave us absolutely no reason for the appointment which the Selection Board have made, but enumerated the admitted qualifications of Major Wood for promotion saying nothing as to his qualifications for being promoted over the heads of others who were qualified. I venture to think that the noble Earl, who has had plenty of notice of this Question, might have given more information to the House than he has done. I do not think the noble Lord who raised this Question did so in any partisan spirit or in any other spirit than a desire for information, but I venture to think that no explanation has been given, and the matter still remains, so far as I am concerned, a mystery.

STREET BETTING [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD DAVEY: My Lords, this Bill is identically word for word in the same form in which it left your Lordships' House last year. As your Lordships were good enough to pass it through its stages last year, I hope you will extend the same favour to it this year. Unfortunately, the state of business in the other House did not permit of its becoming law last session. The object of the Bill is to strengthen the penalties, and in certain events to enable the magistrates to send to prison without the option of a fine persons who are found frequenting public places for the purpose of betting. Your Lordships will remember that evidence was given before the Select Committee of the extent to which betting is carried on with children as well as adults. The evil which this Bill is intended to mitigate has not decreased during the last year, but, if I may judge from the newspapers, has rather increased. I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª—(*Lord Davey.*)

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: My Lords, I certainly did object to the form in which the noble and learned Lord opposite moved this Bill last year. He was good enough, however to meet my objections, and I offered no opposition to the Third Reading of the Bill after he had amended it in the way I suggested. I propose offering no objection now.

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

COOLIE REPATRIATION.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: My Lords, I rise to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if the regulations defining the terms and the conditions under which the indentured coolies in the Transvaal will be repatriated have been drafted, and when these will be laid before the House. Perhaps the noble Earl will allow me to remind him that in the Parliamentary Paper, Cd. 2026, it is laid down that every Chinese labourer who has signed the contract of service shall be carried from the port of embarkation in China to the port of debarkation in Natal in a ship whose master holds a certificate from the official mentioned in the Regulations. Another clause in the Regulations lays down that every labourer on being repatriated to China shall be conveyed only in a ship the master of which is in possession of a certificate authorising him to carry labourers. The Ordinance, therefore, clearly contemplated that Chinese coolies should be carried in special ships. I do not think these ships can be great in number, and I should be glad if the noble Earl could inform the House whether the coolies under the new repatriation order will come under the terms of the old arrangement, or whether fresh arrangements will be made for them specially with regard to their conveyance on board ship back to China.

I see it is stated that the estimated cost of repatriation will be £17 10s. per head, and I should like to ask the noble Earl whether this amount will cover the cost of transporting the coolies from the mine to China, or only from the port of embarkation to the port of debarkation. It is stated in the notification addressed to the Chinese indentured labourers that a Chinaman will have to show that he has made an effort to earn money before the Government will be prepared to pay his passage home. Can the noble Earl tell me how much money a Chinaman will have to show himself possessed of before the superintendent can say he is qualified for a passage home, and, if his petition is granted, how much of the passage money will be paid by the coolie and by the British Government respectively?

The noble Earl has laid it down that penalties for the wilful deception of the Superintendent of Foreign Labour will be inflicted. Can we know whether a list of those penalties will be laid before Parliament, or whether they will be included in the repatriation orders which are to be posted in the mines of the Witwatersrand? If the noble Earl can give us any information on these points it would be a source of gratification. The noble Earl is aware that under the terms of the old Ordinance the Governor-General was entitled to draw up fresh Regulations. Can the noble Earl inform us whether the Government intend to exercise the right provided for in the Ordinance, of drawing up fresh Regulations to meet this particular repatriation order?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, the noble Duke has put to me several specific Questions which are not on the Paper, but I will endeavour to answer them as far as I can. He wishes to know whether the coolies are to be carried in special ships. I understand that those who will return to China under this particular provision will be repatriated in the same manner as the other coolies who have been repatriated hitherto. A very considerable number of coolies have already been repatriated. Up to January last 198 coolies had purchased their discharge, and the total number repatriated from all causes, including illness and bad character, was 1,956. I cannot tell the noble Duke under what particular Regulations the Governor-General has arranged for the repatriation of the coolies. I have no doubt that those repatriated under the new order will be sent back in ships similar to those hitherto utilised for the purpose.

With regard to the cost, I understand that £17 10s. is the full cost of taking the coolie home. I do not think it is limited to the port of embarkation. As to how much of that money will be contributed by the coolie, the noble Duke will see that that is one of a series of Questions I cannot possibly answer at the present moment. The position is this. We put a scheme before the High Commissioner early in the year. At the end of March the High Commissioner sent us certain proposals which were announced in the other House and which I think the noble Duke had before him, and in sending those proposals to us Lord Selborne asked us, if we accepted them as being an adequate performance of the pledges of the Government, to give him our full confidence in carrying out the details. We willingly accepted that condition. The High Commissioner, has, since then, drawn up a notification, which has been published in this country and which is now, I believe, posted in the mines, but, until that notification has been acted upon, and we are aware of the number of coolies that will come forward under it, and the conditions under which they come forward—such as the reasons for which they wish to be repatriated and the amount they may be able to contribute—I do not suppose the High Commissioner is in a position to give us details of the regulations as to the further steps that he might propose to take in carrying out the whole scheme. His Majesty's Government are prepared to trust the High Commissioner in these respects, and I venture to hope that noble Lords opposite will not be behindhand in giving the same confidence to Lord Selborne.

House adjourned at five minutes before Seven o'clock, till Tomorrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday 14*th May,* 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Borough of Great Yarmouth:—

In the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division. The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, the Parliamentary Elections and Corrupt Practices Act, 1879, the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854, and the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883.

Election of a Member of Parliament for the Borough of Great Yarmouth, holden on the 16th day of January, 1906.

To the right hon. the SPEAKER of the House of Commons.

We, Sir William Grantham, Knight, and Sir Arthur Mosely Channell, Knight, Judges of the High Court of Justice, and two of the Judges on the Rota for the time being for the Trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, do hereby certify, in pursuance of the said Acts, that upon the 26th, 27th, 28th, and 30th days of April, and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th days of May of this year, we duly held a Court at the Town Hall, Great Yarmouth, for the trial of and did try the Election Petition for the Borough of Great Yarmouth between James Martin White, Petitioner, and Arthur Fell, Respondent.

And in further pursuance of the said Acts we certify that at the conclusion of the said trial we differed as to whether the said Arthur Fell, being the Member whose Election and Return were complained of, was duly elected and returned, the difference being upon the question whether one John George Baker was or was not proved to have been an agent of the said Arthur Fell.

I, the said Sir William Grantham, determined that the said Arthur Fell was duly elected and returned, and I, the said Sir Arthur Mosely Channell, determined that the said Arthur Fell was not duly elected and returned, and that the Election was void on the ground of bribery by his agent, and we do hereby certify in writing such our determinations to you.

And whereas charges were made in the said Petition of Corrupt and Illegal Practices having been committed at the said Election, we, in further pursuance of the said Acts, report as follows:—

1. That no corrupt or illegal practice was proved to have been committed by or with the knowledge and consent of the said Arthur Fell.

2. That the persons whose names are set out in the Schedule hereto were proved to have been guilty of the corrupt practice of bribery.

3. That although it was proved that corrupt practices were committed at the said Election, it was not proved, nor have we reason to believe that corrupt or illegal practices extensively prevailed at the said Election.

4. We certify that we differed as to whether the said Arthur Fell was guilty by his agent of the corrupt practice of bribery, and report that saving this the said Arthur Fell was not guilty by his agents of any corrupt practice.

5. That the said Arthur Fell was not guilty by his agents of any illegal practice.

6. That we have given Certificates of Indemnity to all the persons whose names are set out in the Schedule hereto, except John George Baker and William Morl.

Schedule.

John George Baker.
William Morl.
Benjamin Lewis.
William Wolage.
Abel Newson.
Arthur Stolworthy.
William White.
William Mallett.
Edgar Samuel Balls.
JoshuaSamuelBrown
George Harris.
William Samuel Palmer.
Samuel Hewitt.
James Fenn.

Wm. Grantham.
A. M. Channell.

And the said Certificate and Report from Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Channell were ordered to be entered in the Journals of this House.

Copy of Shorthand Writer's Notes laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL suggested that as this was a question of privilege, the judgment, along with the shorthand writer's notes, should be entered on the journals of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER ruled that it was not a question of privilege, and that the hon. Member could not raise the question at this stage, as he would thereby be impinging on Government time. If, however, a Motion were put from the Government bench, of course it could be put at once.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. Robson, South Shields) stated that the Government had no objection to such a Motion as the hon. Member had suggested, and he accordingly now moved it.

Mr. SPEAKER: If a Member of the Government desires that these matters should be printed, it is not necessary to make a Motion. A simple instruction to the clerks at the Table will be sufficient. As to the entry of the judgement in the journals of the House, that is done by statute.

Ordered, That the Copy of the Shorthand Writer's Notes of the Judgment of

Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Channell on the Trial of the Election Petition for the Borough of Great Yarmouth, also the Minutes of Evidence taken at the Trial of the said Election Petition, be printed. [No. 169.]—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING-ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords]; Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH.)

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Water Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz.:—Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

London County Buildings Bill; Peterborough Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Sheffield Assay Office Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Southampton Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords]. To be read a second time to-morrow.

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]; Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords]; South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Brownhills and Cameron Pit; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Kennington and Walmer; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of law from Aldbury (two); Alkham (two); Bardon Hill (two); Barnsbury; Barwell; Bolton; Burnley (two); Capel le Ferne; Great Gaddesden; Horton cum Studley (two); Kersal (two); Lamorbey (two); Launton (two); Lostock Gralam; Macclesfield (two); North Rode; Seale (two); Stapleton; Steep (two); Taplow; and Westwell; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1901) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENT (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.

Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS BILL).

Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3583 and 3584 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Copy presented, of General Report and Statistics for the year 1905, Part I. (District Statistics), Statistics of the persons employed, Output, and Accidents at Mines and Quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to the Inspection districts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPLOSIONS (9, DAWSON STREET, DUBLIN).

Copy presented, of Report by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an explosion of gunpowder which occurred on the premises of Messrs. Trulock, Harriss, and Richardson, Limited, of 9, Dawson Street, Dublin, on March 22nd 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPLOSIONS (STRATFORD-BY-BOW).

Copy presented, of Report by Captain J. H. Thomson, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an explosion of nitro-glycerine in waste acid, which occurred at the chemical works of Messrs. F. W. Berk and Company, Limited, at Abbey Mills, Stratford-by-Bow, Essex, on the 15th January 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).

Copy presented, of Orders made by the County Council of Lancaster, redividing the Eccles and Ormskirk Parliamentary Divisions of the County into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Camberwell and Stockton-on-Tees, fixing the the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops within the Boroughs [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS.

Copy presented, of Twenty-third Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, with Appendices, for the year 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 167.]

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd April; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table.

CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGNERS.

Address for "Return of all Contracts made in the United Kingdom for manufactured articles by the several Government Departments in the year ending the 31st, day of March 1906, either with contractors outside the United Kingdom or with contractors or agents who obtained the articles from abroad (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 315, of 1905)." —(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

PROBATION OF FIRST OFFENDERS.

Address for "Return of the number of cases within the Metropolitan Police District, the West Riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Durham, in which persons convicted of first offences have, by reason of their youth, or the trivial nature of the offence, been released under recognisances or probation of good conduct in the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, under the Probation of First Offenders Act, 1887 :"

"And of the number of cases in which such persons have been called upon to appear to receive judgment, or are known to have been subsequently convicted of a fresh offence (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 281, of Session 1903)."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

MAGISTRATES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Address for "Return of the number of Magistrates appointed in the different counties of England and Wales, with their names, description, and addresses, from the 1st day of January, 1900, to the 11th day of December, 1905."—(*Mr. Bennett.*)

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

Return ordered, "showing Particulars as to the action of Local Authorities in Ireland under the Acts compiled to the 31st day of March, 1906 :—

Name of Local Authority.

	Borrowings.					Cost of each scheme.									
						Purchase or estimated value of each site.						Other expenses.			
Number of each scheme.	Date of Local Government Board sanction to loan for each scheme.	Amount borrowed for each scheme.	Period allowed for repayment of each loan.	Rate of interest thereon.	Other moneys applied in aid of each scheme.	Acquired compulsorily.	Acquired by agreement.	Appropriated.	Extent of land included in same.	Cost of clearance, etc.	Cost of new buildings, including approaches, drains, etc.	Law costs, including cost of Act or Provisional Order.	Architects' and engineers' fees.	Other charges.	Total cost of each scheme.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.

Accommodation provided.						Income received in respect of year ended March 31st, 1906.			Expenditure in respect of year ended March 31st, 1906.						Differences.		
Number of houses completed.	Number of houses in course of erection.	Total number of houses erected and to be erected.	Number of families provided for under Column 17.	Number of families to be accommodated under Column 18.	Total number of families provided for or to be accommodated.	Rents from occupiers.	Other sources, including portion of site temporarily let.	Total.	Interest.	Sinking fund.	Rent of site.	Rates and taxes.	Other charges, including repairs, collectors' fees, etc.	Total.	Surplus, being difference between Columns 31 and 25.	Loss, being difference between Columns 25 and 31.	Observations.
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.

—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Board of Trade Returns and Staff.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether in view of the amplification of the monthly and annual Board of Trade Returns of Imports and Exports which are prepared in the Customs Statistical Department, he will give the number and cost of the staff of that office in the years 1880, 1890, 1900, and 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The tabular statement hereunder furnishes the particulars requested:—

Year.	Number of Staff.	Cost of Staff.
		£
1880	91	22,312
1890	105	25,906
1900	160	23,452
1905	221	30,917

The cost per capita of staff in the years 1880 and 1890 was unduly high.

Royal Irish Constabulary Inspectors.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give the number of county and district inspectors of the Royal Irish Constabulary in Ireland, the total salary, allowances, cost of clerks, etc., of the county inspectors; the total salary, allowances, cost of clerks, etc., of the districts; the work which each county inspector has to perform, the number of stations in each county and district inspector's district; whether any steps have been or will be taken for the reduction of the number of those officers, the rearrangement of districts, the reduction of salaries and expenses.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) According to the estimates for the current year, the amount of salary and allowances of county inspectors is £23,261, and of their clerks £6,212, making a total of £29,473. The similar provision for district inspectors is £70,772, and for their clerks £1,461, making a total ot £72,233. The duties of county inspectors are too numerous to be stated in detail in reply to a question, but it may be said in general terms that each county inspector is responsible for the prevention of crime, the detection of criminals, and the general preservation of the peace, and for the discipline of the force in his county. The average number of stations in each county is thirty-eight, and the average number in each district inspector's district is seven. The existing statutory law requires that there should be a county inspector for each county. Some reduction has already been made in recent years in the number of district inspectors, and the necessity of further reductions is and will be considered upon each occasion on which opportunity arises.

Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants in County Clare.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, how many evicted tenants in county Clare have applied for reinstatement in their holdings, and how many have been reinstated; and whether an inspector will be sent by the Estates Commissioners to inquire into their position.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications for reinstatement from 215 persons claiming as evicted tenants in the county Clare. The Commissioners have information that ten of these have been reinstated. They intend to make inquiries into the cases of the other evicted tenants in the county as soon as possible, and I should hope that proceedings will be more rapid than heretofore now that inspectors have been appointed for the purpose.

Holding for Pat Rodgers, of Kilkittane, County Clare.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners are taking any steps to procure a holding for an evicted tenant, named Pat Rodgers, of Kilkittane, Whitegate, county Clare, whose rent was £80, and valuation only £33 10s.; is he aware that his farm was, with the adjoining lands of Tintrim, sold for £2,900 in the year 1901 to a Welshman named Davies, whose only stock at the time of inspection consisted of two cows and a donkey, and that he made an attempt at selling the evicted farm last month; and will the Land Commission be instructed to advance no more money to men of this kind.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the estate of Mr. Bernard Martin was sold in the Land Judge's Court to the occupying tenants in July, 1901. The lands of Tintrim and Kilkittane, part of this estate, were sold to Mr. Davies as tenant purchaser, and an advance of £2,960 was made to him under the Land Purchase Acts. I have no information as to his nationality, nor as to the amount of his stock. The half-yearly instalments of the annuity have since been punctually paid. The Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Patrick Rodgers, and they will consider the application in connection with the sale of any untenanted land in the neighbourhood which they may acquire. I have no power to give the instructions suggested in the concluding part of the Question.

Teaching of the Irish Language.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when were the programmes and rules, issued by the intermediate Board, for the year 1907 laid upon the Table of the House; and whether, in view of the way in which the Board have treated the Irish language in their programme, he will give an opportunity of discussing it as soon as possible.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The rules and programme of the Intermediate Education Board for the year 1907 were laid upon the Table on the 2nd instant. I am informed that the position of the Irish language in the programme does not differ in any way from that which it occupied in the previous year. I understand that the next meeting of the Board will take place on the 24th instant, and if the hon. Member has any representations to make as to the treatment of Irish I will communicate them to the Board for their consideration.

Allocation of Money at the Fines and Penalties Office, Dublin.

MR. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the amount of money standing to the credit of the Fines and Penalties Office, Dublin; does he propose any application of this money; will he favourably consider an application to allocate it to the county councils of Ireland in aid of the general rates, or to be applied in the maintenance of county and other court houses for which county councils are responsible.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The amount of stock standing to the credit of the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks' Department is £170,258. I am not at present prepared to make any statement as to the possible allocation of any part of this fund to other than its original purposes, but the matter is under consideration.

Royal Irish Constabulary—Special Crimes Branch.

Mr. MEEHAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many constables of the Royal Irish Constabulary are engaged on a branch of the service known as the Special Crimes Branch; what is the nature of the work done by this branch, and what is the amount of special pay attached to it; is there any necessity for its continuance; and, if not, will it be discontinued.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Special Crimes Branch of the Royal Irish Constabulary consists of a county inspector, a district inspector, a sergeant, and a constable at headquarters, and thirty-seven men outside headquarters. The work of the branch consists of criminal investigation. The county inspector and the district inspector receive an extra allowance of £250 and £150 per annum respectively. The men receive a daily allowance of 1s. 6d. each. It is deemed necessary to continue the branch.

Debt Recovery in Ireland.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant whether he is aware that a strong feeling exists among the mercantile and legal community in favour of a reform of the system of debt recovery in Ireland; and whether he will appoint a Commission to inquire into the subject and suggest measures for remedying defects of which the public complain.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have not been made aware that a strong feeling exists among the mercantile and legal community in favour of a reform of the system of debt recovery in Ireland, and, in the absence of any evidence to that effect, the Government are not prepared to consider the question of appointing a Commission to inquire into the subject.

Irish Emigration Return.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will have the Monthly Return of Emigration from Ireland issued and circulated as a Parliamentary Paper.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Annual Returns of Emigration from Ireland are already presented to Parliament, and the Monthly Returns are on sale through His Majesty's Stationery Office at the price of one penny. There would be no objection to present quarterly, or even monthly, Returns to Parliament, and if it should be found that there is any general desire to that effect, I will give the necessary directions in the matter.

Distribution of the Brown Estate, County Galway.

Mr. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the tenants on the Brown Estate, New Inn, county Galway, were informed at the time of purchase by the representative of the Estates Commissioners that the game and timber upon their farms would be theirs; whether the residence and a considerable portion of the lands are in the hands of the Commissioners; and, if so, whether it is their intention to accede to the request of those tenants who occupy uneconomic holdings to distribute the lands amongst them.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that the tenants to whom holdings on this estate were allotted were informed that the game was reserved to the vendor, and signed undertakings accordingly. They were, however, told that the timber on their holdings would belong to them. None of the lands are now in the Commissioners' hands.

The Bann and Lough Neagh Drainage Scheme.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if and when does he intend to give effect to Sir Alexander Binnie's Report on the Bann and Lough Neagh Drainage Scheme.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Government have addressed a number of authorities and persons locally interested in the question of the Bann drainage, and invited their views on Sir Alexander Binnies' Report. Upon the receipt of the replies the Report will be further considered by the Government.

Sale of the Hennessy Minors Estate, County Cork.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether any negotiations for sale to the occupying tenants of the Hennessy Minors estate, Ballymacmoy, county Cork, are in progress; and, if so, whether he will invite the Estates Commissioners to take into consideration the desirability and necessity of including the village of Killavullen in the sale of the estate, having regard to the fact that it is situated in the centre of the property and that the holdings are occupied by yearly tenants paying ground rents only.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are unable to trace any proceedings as having been instituted before them in respect of the sale of the estate in question.

Mr. Conor O'Kelly and Boycotting.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a speech delivered by the hon. Member for North Mayo at a meeting of the United Irish League, held at Ardagh, county Mayo, on Sunday the 6th instant; whether the hon. Member had any authority for suggesting that the Government approved of boycotting; and what steps are being taken to protect bidders at the sale in question and prevent a breach of the peace.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative; to the second in the negative both as respects the alleged contents of the speech and as regards the view attributed to the Government. Adequate police arrangements were made for the protection of bidders at the auction, but six of the lots were disposed of before it took place, and it was announced that the seventh was to be disposed of by private contract.

Improvement of Clifden Harbour.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state when the improvements of the Clifden Harbour, contemplated and provided for under the Marine Works Act are likely to commence.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer to the reply which I gave on February 26th† to the hon. Member's previous Question on this subject. I can only repeat that I will take, as soon as I can, an opportunity of looking into the matter, if possible on the spot. I do not anticipate that a decision can be arrived at for some time to come. As the amount available under the Marine Works Act is limited, regard must always be had to the competing claims of various districts.

Congested Districts Board and Emigration.

MR. CONOR O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say whether the Congested Districts Board have, during the past twelve months, assisted emigration to Canada or any other Colony from the county of Mayo; and, if so, will he state the number of persons whose passages were paid.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the Congested Districts Board have never assisted emigration from any part of the congested districts.

Private Sales of Land in the West of Ireland.

MR. CONOR O'KELLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the attempts that are being made by landlords in the west of Ireland to auction their untenanted land,

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† See (4) *Debates*, clii., 765.

and refusing to sell to the Congested Districts Board; and, if so, whether, in view of the fact that this land is urgently required for the purpose of remedying congestion, he proposes to take any steps in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the Congested Districts Board have knowledge of only one such case as is referred to, namely, a case in which a landowner contemplated the sale in lots by auction of the occupation interest in a farm at Crannagh, county Mayo. Ultimately six out of the seven lots for sale were disposed of without an auction, and it was, when I last heard, intended to sell the seventh lot also. The Congested Districts Board were not approached by the landlord in this matter. The steps which I am taking are the suggesting to the Board that they should inquire if land coming into the market is suitable for their purposes; and, if so, whether the landlord would sell it to them.

Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland).

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will take steps to ensure that the Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland) shall be presented to Parliament and published sooner than nine months after the period covered by the Report.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Annual Reports of the General Prisons Board are for the year ending March 31st. Certain of the statistics contained in the Reports are for the preceding calendar year, but the financial tables relate to the year ending March 31st. The Report for 1904–5 was presented four months after that date The Board inform me that the Report cannot sooner be prepared having regard to the complicated statistics to be compiled.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say why six prisoners, described in the Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland) as sane, were transferred from Irish local prisons to Irish lunatic asylums.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The hon. Member appears to refer to a paragraph on page 11 of the Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland) for the year ending March 31st, 1905. The six persons referred to are not described as having been sane simply, but as having been sane on committal. They became insane while in prison, and were thereupon transferred to lunatic asylums.

State Purchase of Irish Railways.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he proposes to take any measures to bring about the State purchase of the Irish railways.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have not yet had time to consider fully the interesting subject touched on in the Question.

Death of Sapper Michael O'Connell.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the circumstances attending the death of Sapper Michael O'Connell in the Military Hospital, Fermoy, from injuries caused by a fall from a window of the barrack room at Moor Park, Kilworth; is he aware that at the coroner's inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned, but no opportunity was afforded to the injury to view the scene of the accident or examine the construction and fastenings of the window through which Michael O'Connell was supposed to have forced himself while in a somnambulistic condition; if any inquiry into the circumstances has been held by the military authorities, and with what result; and whether, seeing that the relatives of Michael O'Connell were not professionally represented and no opportunity was given to sift and examine the evidence adduced, he will consider the necessity of directing a further inquiry to be held.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have received from the police authorities a report in this matter, from which it appears that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. Full evidence in the case was given by the deceased's comrades and others. The jury expressed no desire to examine the scene of the accident, but without hesitation found a verdict of accidental death. No evidence was given that the deceased was subject to somnambulism, and his father denied the suggestion. I am informed that a regimental court of inquiry was held, and that the finding of the court agreed with that of the coroner's jury. No further inquiry into the case appears to be necessary.

Teaching of Extra Subjects in Irish Schools.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the north of Ireland there is a desire for the teaching of mathematics, French, and Latin as extra subjects in elementary schools; whether he has decided to restore the payment of fees for such extra subjects; and whether he will adopt the equitable method of paying the same fee for each extra.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am not aware that, outside teachers' associations, any such desire has hitherto found expression. The sujects in question can hardly be considered to be within the scope of Irish primary education, and, as I have already pointed out, when extra fees in these subjects were given, comparatively few schools took advantage of the privilege. It is not intended to restore the payment of extra fees for these subjects.

Army Recruits.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state the number of recruits who joined the Army in the year ending March 31st, 1906, from each of the four nations of the British Empire, viz., England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland; the number from each of the four nations that were unable to serve in the Army on account of illness, for the three years ending March 31st, 1906; the number from each of the four nations that were discharged from the Army for misconduct in the year ending March 31st, 1906; and the number of officers from each of the four nations that were charged with tyrannical rowdyism for the year ending May 1st, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Returns showing the recruits raised in the four countries respectively are only made up annually to September 30th. No Returns show discharges as invalids or for misconduct by these countries. I am afraid, therefore, that I cannot supply the statistics which the hon. Member requires.

Desertions from the Army in Scotland.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that during the years 1902, 1903, 1904, and 1905, there were 1,705 desertions from the various barracks in Scotland, will he state how many men were quartered each year at the respective barracks at the time the desertions from such barracks took place.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) My hon. friend is doubtless aware that the numbers quartered at the barracks concerned varied from time to time during the years in question. Accordingly the compilation of the figures necessary to give a satisfactory answer to the Question would involve considerable labour which there would not appear to be sufficiently strong grounds to justify.

Smallpox in British Army.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the average annual strength of the British Armies in Egypt and India during the twenty years 1881 to 1900 was approximately 69,751, and if the total number of cases of smallpox amongst those men was 1,149, and the total number of deaths from smallpox 113; and if, seeing that during the same period the town of Leicester had an average annual population of 165,415, and that the total number of cases of smallpox in Leicester during that period was 447, and the total number of deaths from smallpox was thirty-one, that the soldiers were all vaccinated and the population of Leicester largely unvaccinated, and that the death-rate from smallpox in the Army per 100,000 was eight times the death-rate in Leicester, he will consider the advisability of relaxing the regulation for compulsory vaccination in the Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) It is not clear what value can be obtained from a comparison between the statistics of Leicester and those of the British Army in India and Egypt, but if my hon. friend will consider the statistics for the years 1901 to 1904 he will find that while the troops in India and Egypt had 163 admissions to hospital for smallpox, and twenty-one deaths, Leicester had 740 admissions to hospital for smallpox, and thirty deaths. There would not appear to be any sound grounds for relaxing the regulations for vaccination in the Army.

Army Pensioners in Workhouses.

Mr. SLOAN: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state how many Army pensioners are at present in the workhouses of the United Kingdom; how many have applied for an increase of pension to enable them to live outside these institutions; and what would be the probable cost to the State if such increases were granted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The number of pensioners who became chargeable to the guardians during the year ending March 31st, 1906, was about 1,500. The number at present in workhouses is not known at the War Office. No record is kept of the number of applications for increase of pension from pensioners in workhouses, nor is it possible to make any estimate of the cost of awarding to such pensioners sufficient increase of pension to enable them to live outside.

The St. Helena Garrison.

Sir ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): To ask the Secretary of State for War when the remainder of the garrison of the Island of St. Helena, consisting principally of Royal Artillery, will return home, and so complete the economy foreshadowed by his statement on Army Estimates.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The garrison at St. Helena will be withdrawn in the autumn.

Manufacture of Bayonets.

Mr. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the bayonet department, Enfield, has come to an almost total standstill; if so, will he state the reasons, and when it may be anticipated that orders will be placed in this department; and what orders have been placed for bayonets to the trade and Government factories during the last seven years and the comparative cost.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Work in the bayonet shops at Enfield is necessarily suspended during consideration of the pattern of bayonet to be adopted for the short rifle. No discharges are being made in the bayonet shop, as the men are being absorbed on rifle work. As regards the orders and the comparative cost my hon. friend will find the information for the years 1899 to 1904 in the Return presented in 1905 [Cd. 2431]. The figures for the period 1904 to 1906 are as follows:—

	Ordnance Factories.	Trade.
Orders	65,974	44,772
Average Cost	8s. 1¾d.	9s. 8d.

The Colonies and British Military Policy.

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether the views placed before the last Colonial Conference by the War Office are the only official intimation our Colonies have received of late years as to British military policy.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane*). No, Sir. The Colonies receive the recommendations of the Colonial Defence Committee, through the Colonial Office, which are previously approved by the Army Council. The Army Council is represented on the Colonial Defence Committee by three directors.

Spanish Bull Fighting.

Dr. SHIPMAN (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether it is proposed to give the British Representative at the forthcoming marriage of the King of Spain instructions similar to those given to Lord Napier of Magdala at the marriage of King Alphonso XII. in 1879, not to attend any bull fights which may form part of the festivities.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) It does not appear from our records that any instructions on this point were given to Lord Napier; and this occasion is not one on which instructions can be given by His Majesty's Government.

Annual Report of Chief Inspector of Factories.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the the Secretary of State for the Home Department, at what date the annual Report of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I am informed by the Chief Inspector that he hopes he may be able to have the whole Report, including the statistical tables, ready for issue in June, but, in view of the large amount of work to be done in connection with it, he is unable to fix any precise date at present.

Education Finances Return.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when will the Report granted to the hon. Member for West Kerry on educational finances in England, Ireland, and Wales be ready; and whether he will see that it is completed as soon as possible.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The collection and tabulation of the required information is proceeding as rapidly as possible, and I hope that the Return will pe ready soon after the Whitsuntide Recess.

Industrial Training in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state how many boys and girls respectively resident in the island of Lewis the local authorities have recommended to the Scottish Education Department for participation in the industrial training provided for under Section 1 (d) of the minute of March 19th last.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) Communications have taken place, but no definite statement is possible at present.

Discharge of Mr. Murray from Ordnance Survey Department.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PHILIPPS (Southampton): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that notice of discharge on reduction of establishment has been given to Mr. George Murray, temporary civil assistant of the Ordnance Survey Department in the Derby division, who is fourty-eight years of age and has nearly thirty-one years' service in the Department; and whether, taking into consideration that in 1891, when on outdoor employment on examination duty, he met with an accident which, though it interferes with his outdoor work, does not interfere with his employment in office work, that in 1899 Colonel Washington, then director of the Map and Survey Department, Land Registry Office, London, was willing to find Mr. Murray employment as draughtsman in that department, and that Mr. Murray was anxious to be transferred from the Ordnance Survey, but that the then Director General of the Ordnance Survey was unable to spare him from the Ordnance Survey, that Mr. Murray's character is excellent and his work very good, being described by his superior officer as a very good surveyor and examiner, and a good draughtsman and tracer, and as being absolutely sober, trustworthy, and honest, and that he has given the best part of his life to the Government service, and that his age now debars him from obtaining similar or other employment elsewhere, he will consider whether some suitable employment cannot still be found for him in the Ordnance Survey Department.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) My noble friend much regrets that it has been necessary to give notice of discharge to such an old public servant as Mr. Murray, but after full inquiry he is satisfied that there is no suitable employment for him, unless some better man is discharged from some other office to make room for him. Mr. Murray's application for transfer to the Land Registry in 1899 was refused, in accordance with a general rule forbidding such transfers, and not on the ground that he could not be spared from the Ordnance Survey.

Sand required for the Construction of Poulduff Pier.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, if the contractor for the construction of Poulduff Pier, county Wexford, will be allowed to take the small quantity of sand he requires for the work from the beach there, in view of the fact that no objection has ever been taken to the removal of either sand or shingle from the beach by the public, who have been in the habit of so doing from time immemorial, and in view of the fact that the removal of the small quantity of sand required by the cantractor can do no harm to anyone.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade have intimated to the contractor that they are disposed to grant him permission to take a limited quantity of gravel from the beach on certain conditions, but it is necessary before coming to a decision for the Board to be furnished with an approximate estimate of the amount which he requires.

Gas Meter Registers.

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will take steps, by legislation or otherwise, to get the gas companies to supply to the consumers using the penny-in-the-slot meters, a card to show the record of the index of the meter, as is supplied to consumers using the ordinary meters.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) There is no obligation upon gas companies, so far as I am aware, to supply such cards to consumers using the ordinary meters. The Board of Trade have no power to require gas companies to supply such cards without further legislation. I am not prepared at present to express an opinion on the subject, but the point will be noted for consideration in the event of any Bill being introduced to amend the Gas Acts.

Postal Facilities at Newtownards.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is in a position to make any statement as to the requests made by the Newtownards Urban District Council with reference to the postal facilities in the letter written by the town clerk on April 12th.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am glad to say I have been able to meet the wishes of the Newtownards Urban District Council, and I have given instructions (1) for the first delivery at that place to be accelerated by thirty minutes, (2) for an additional postman to be employed upon this delivery, with the view of reducing the loads of the men employed on the duty, and (3) for the mail arriving at Newtownards at 6.10 p.m. from the Ards district to be delivered the same evening.

Post Office Male Sorters.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will give the number of male sorters employed on April 1st, 1906; the number of sorters in receipt of pensions on the same date; and the total amount paid to these officers on superannuation.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The number of male sorters employed on April 1st, 1906, was 5,555. The number of sorters in receipt of pensions on the same date was 318, and the total amount paid to these officers on superannuation was £20,822 per annum, exclusive of pensions payable to officers of the supervising classes who had been promoted from the sorters' ranks.

Closing of Schools—Repayment of Grants.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether, in the event of a voluntary school being closed, the Board of Education require from the trustees the repayment of the whole or part of any building grant made by the State in respect of such school or teachers' residence; and, if so, by what authority or instruction this demand is made.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The question of the repayment of building grant by the trustees of any elementary school is dealt with in The School Grants Act, 1855, which provides that where a building grant has been made, no sale, exchange, or mortgage of the premises shall be valid unless either the Secretary of State for the Home Department consents or the amount of the grant is repaid to the Treasury. Each case is dealt with on its merits, and in the light of the particular trusts affecting the premises.

Customs Officers' Grievance.

MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the Board of Customs, in their Report to the Treasury in November, 1904, on the second class examining officers' memorial, stated that the figures and quotations in such memorial were inaccurate, and whether he can state what steps were taken by the Treasury officials to verify this statement by the Board of Customs; and whether he will cause the Report to be officially published.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I do not think it would be in the public interest either to discuss or to publish the confidential correspondence between departments on matters of this kind.

MR. C. DUNCAN: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will submit a table showing the date of entrance to the Customs service, the initial salaries, and the salaries on March 31st each year from 1901 to 1906, inclusive, of the members of the service who have served in the Customs secretary's office within the above-mentioned period, and showing, in the case of those now serving in other branches of the service, the date of their transfer from the secretary's office, the position to which they were appointed, and the post they hold at the present time.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I do not think that any useful object would be served by the publication of such a table. I shall be happy to communicate with the hon. Member if he wishes for information on any particular cases.

Appointment of Mr. Mowatt as Assistant Metropolitan Poor Law Auditor.

MR. BARNARD (Kidderminster): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the precise terms of the appointment of Mr. F. H. Mowatt, assistant auditor of the Metropolitan (Poor Law) Audit District, which comprises the district of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum District.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Mr. Mowatt is appointed to assist the district auditors for the time being for the London county audit district, the Metropolitan Boroughs Audit District, and the Metropolitan (Poor Law) Audit District, respectively, in the performance of their duties as such auditors, and he is at present required to assist the auditor of the last-mentioned district. Under The District Auditors Act, 1879, an assistant auditor has, subject to any exceptions made by the terms of his appointment, the same powers and duties and is subject to the same obligations as the auditor whom he is appointed to assist. By the terms of his appointment, Mr. Mowatt has no power of making any disallowance or surcharge, and in the exercise of his powers and the performance of his duties is made subject to the directions of the district auditor whom he is required for the time being to assist.

Comptroller and Auditor-General and Public Expenditure.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will undertake that the discretion vested in the Treasury by the Act of 1866 shall not be used to prevent the Controller and Auditor-General from seeing any items of public expenditure which he may think it his duty, in the public interest, to examine.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I am not aware of any case in which the Treasury has prevented the Comptroller and Auditor-General from seeing items of expenditure which he thinks it his duty to examine. If such a case were to arise, I presume that the Comptroller and Auditor-General would report it to the Public Accounts Committee, who would deal with it on behalf of this House.

Fair Rent Appeals in County Fermanagh.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the application of Edward Rogers, tenant, against H. de F. Montgomery, landlord, to fix a fair rent was served so long ago as October, 1898, (County Fermanagh, No. 6,410), and is still, after over seven and a half years, undisposed of; and whether, in view of the loss to Rogers, he can arrange for an early sitting of the Land Commission to dispose of that and other long-delayed cases from the county of Fermanagh.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Land Commission that the originating notice was lodged by the tenant in this case on October 29th, 1898, but was dismissed by order of the Sub-commission, dated February 21st, 1900, on the grounds that the applicant was not the tenant of a present tenancy in the holding. The tenant having appealed against this order, the Appeal Court, on March 20th, 1903, discharged the order of the Sub-commission and remitted the case back to a Sub-commission to fix a fair rent. On April 21st, 1904, the Sub-commission fixed the fair rent at £38 5*s*., and against this decision both the tenant and landlord have appealed by notices lodged respectively on June 28th and 30th, 1904. The case will appear on the next appeal list for the district, the date for the hearing of which has not yet been fixed.

Sale of the Marshall Estate, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet sanctioned the sale of the Marshall Estate, near Kanturk, county Cork; and, if so, has the transaction been yet completed; are the Commissioners aware that the tenants were led to believe that four per cent. interest on the purchase money was to be charged for the first half-year after signing the agreements, and 3½ per cent. subsequently until the completion of the transaction; and whether, in view of the delay caused by no default of the tenants, the latter can be held liable to pay more than the ordinary 3½ per cent. interest.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the advances in this case have been sanctioned but not yet made. The completion of the matter has been stayed pending a question which has arisen as to the redemption of a Board of Works loan. The rate of interest on the purchase money is set out in the agreements for sale signed by the tenants at four per cent. per annum from the date of the agreement up to the date of the advance. The Commissioners have no knowledge of any arrangement as to subsequent reduction, and must collect interest in lieu of rent at the rate agreed upon between the tenants and their landlord, as set out in the purchase agreements.

Evicted Tenants in Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he can state the number of evicted tenants in Queen's County who have been restored to their own or other holdings under the operation of the Act of 1903, and also how many remain unprovided for; and what steps are being taken by the Estate Commissioners to reinstate the latter or provide them with equivalent farms.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications from 187 persons claiming to have been evicted from holdings in the Queen's County. Of these thirty-nine have been reinstated by the Commissioners, and they have information of four reinstated by landlords, leaving 144 such cases still outstanding. The Commissioners hope shortly to make inquiries as to these latter cases, and no pains will be spared to deal with the matter.

Irish Land Purchase—Registration of Title.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that subtenants who purchase under the Act of 1903 have to pay 9*s*. 6*d*. for registration of title, in addition to the charge of 10*s*. 6*d*. for copy of registration usually paid by ordinary tenant purchasers; and whether he can say if this penalty on sub-tenants is prescribed by the Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Registrar of Titles informs me that no tenant purchaser under the Act of 1903 is charged any fee whatsoever for the registration of his title. If such tenant purchasers should demand a certificate of title they are charged a fee of 10*s*., but it is entirely optional with them to procure such certificate.

Land Appeals in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state when the last sitting of the head Land Commission Court was held in Longford; whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists amongst the tenants having appeals listed there as to the delay; and whether he will communicate with the Commission and ask them to arrange for a sitting at an early date in Longford.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Land Commission that sittings were held at Longford, by both Judicial Commissioners sitting independently, on May 9th, 1905, and following days. The list contained all cases then pending in which the notices of appeal were lodged prior to April 1st, 1905. There are now pending only forty-four cases from county Longford in which appeals have been lodged on various dates since that date, and in twenty of those cases the notices of appeal were received since the commencement of the present year. A sitting will be arranged for the disposal of county Longford appeals for as early a date as possible, having regard to the claims of other districts.

Patronage of the Irish Department of Agriculture.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is competent for the Commission now sitting to investigate the manner in which the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction have exercised the patronage at their disposal, as well as the manner in which they have interfered with county committees with regard to appointments.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) If by the first part of the Question the hon. Member intends to refer to the relations between the Department and their staff, I may refer to the statement I have already made, namely, that it was never intended that the Committee should inquire into any alleged grievances of the staff. The question of the relations between the Department and county committees in regard to appointments is, I think, one with which the Committee might deal, but in saying so I must be understood to be expressing my own opinion, and not to be interfering with the discretion of the Committee in the matter.

Irish Horticultural Instructor—Appointment of Mr. Bryne.

MR. O'SHEE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Waterford County Council has recently passed a resolution testifying to the manner in which Mr. M. J. Bryne carried on his work during the time that he acted as horticultural instructor for the county of Waterford; whether he is aware that other public bodies in the county of Waterford had previously passed similar resolutious; and whether, in view of these recommendations, the Department will, having regard to the previous experience and to the qualifications of Mr. Bryne, sanction his appointment as horticultural instructor at the request of any county committee which decides to appoint him.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction are not aware that the Waterford County Council has recently passed such a resolution. At their meeting held on November 27th, 1905, the Waterford County Committee of Agriculture passed a resolution to the effect that Mr. Bryne was energetic and attentive to his duties while employed by them as demonstrator in horticulture, but the committee refrained from expressing any opinion as to his fitness for such a position. The Department are not prepared to approve of Mr. Bryne's appointment by any county committee, as they do not regard him as well qualified for employment under the scheme of instruction in horticulture.

Purchases of Irish Estates.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many years' purchase were paid by the Congested Districts Board for the Jones estate, situate at Burrishoole, Newport, county Mayo; what price was paid by the Board for the Glendahurk Mountain, and what is its area; what price was paid for the 80 acres of land at Knocklegan; what was the total amount paid to Mr. Jones for his estate and farms; did this total include the price of the game and fishing rights; how many farms in the Westport Union are at present used by the Congested Districts Board for grazing purposes; what are the names of those farms; and what is the total area of such farms.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Congested Districts Board have arranged to purchase the Jones estate at prices representing nineteen years purchase of first term rents, twenty-two years purchase of second term rents, and thirty years purchase of the yearly value of untenanted lands. The price paid for Glendahurk Mountain was £700. The price to be paid for the 83 acres at Knocklegan is £1,140. The total amount to be paid to Mr. Jones for his estate and farms is £10,300. The game and fishing rights are included in the sale, so far as the vendor is in a position to convey them. The following statement contains particulars of the farms in Westport Union at present used by the Board for grazing purposes. Of the total of 16,090 acres, 1,709 only have so far been vested in the Board.

Number.	Names of Farms.	Area.		
		a.	r.	p.
1	Kilmeena - - - - - - - -	103	3	10
2	Clooneshill and Derrylahan - - - - -	649	0	0
3	Kilbride - - - - - - - -	120	2	39
4	Roigh - - - - - - - - -	87	1	35
5	Rossyvera - - - - - - - -	78	3	1
6	Glashpatrick - - - - - - -	391	3	0
7	Brockagh and Toorgave - - - - -	286	0	0
8	Aughagowla - - - - - - -	327	3	37
9	Cuiltrean - - - - - - - -	250	2	9
10	Ballygolman - - - - - - -	157	3	17
11	Burrishoole - - - - - - -	3,168	0	0
12	Owenglass, Shaenmore, and Bunmore - - -	10,214	0	0
13	Murrevagh - - - - - - - -	26	1	0
14	Vesey Stoney and Curran Estate Islands - -	228	0	0
	Total - - - - -	16,090	0	28

Religious Persuasion of Constabulary and Magistrates at Templemore.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the district inspector and head constable stationed at Templemore belong to the Protestant persuasion; are the clerks of petty sessions and the resident magistrate of the same religion; and will he state how many members of the constabulary at Templemore belong to the Catholic religion.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The Answer to the second part is also in the affirmative as regards the resident magistrate. No records are kept of the religious persuasion of petty sessions clerks. Ten out of fifteen members of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed at Templemore are registered as Roman Catholics.

Reinstatement of Mrs. E. Rourke.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mrs. Elizabeth Rourke has applied to the Estates Commissioners to be restored to the farm from which her uncle John Redmond, since deceased, and herself were evicted some sixteen years ago; whether the farm, which is part of the Hardy estate and situate in the townland of Kilmacart, Hacketstown, is in the possession of any other tenant; and, if so, on what terms; and can he say what decision, if any, the Commissioners have come to in reference to Mrs. Rourke's case.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that an application for reinstatement as an evicted tenant was, on April 25th, 1906, lodged with them by Mrs. Elizabeth Rourke, who states that the holding in which she seeks to be reinstated is now in the occupation of Mrs. Neil. The Commissioners have not yet inquired into the case, but will do so in due course.

Condition of Service of Army Quartermasters.

COLONEL McCALMONT (Antrim, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is proposed to take any steps to ameliorate the conditions under which Army quartermasters at present serve, more particularly with regard to the difference of treatment existing between the appointment, pay, promotion, and retiring allowances of quartermasters as compared with those of district officers of Royal Artillery.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) As regards the comparison drawn between district officers of the Royal Artillery and quartermasters, it would not appear that the differences in appointment, pay, and promotion are in excess of the difference of the duties or to be in all respects to the disadvantage of the quartermasters. It is not, therefore, proposed to make any alterations in these respects. The question of retiring allowances is, however, at present receiving careful consideration.

Discharges from Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether in view of the fact that since January, 1906, fifty-six men have been discharged from the Royal Gunpowder Factory, at Waltham Abbey, making a total of 400 since April, 1905, he can see his way to stopping any further discharges and withdrawing the notice posted in the notice box since March 24th, 1905, entitled warning of expected discharges, which causes a feeling of unrest among the employees.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The orders for cordite for this financial year are not sufficient to keep the full number of men now at Waltham Abbey employed and some further discharges may be necessary. I can, however, assure the hon. and gallant Member that they will be as few as possible.

Army Meat Contracts.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can explain why any change was allowed to be made in the tender forms for meat supply to the Army, by substituting the word home-killed instead of home-bred; whether he is aware that such change would enable the supply to be derived from imported cattle; and whether he will revert to the arrangement entered into some years since for the supply of a certain amount of native produce.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The troops in the United Kingdom get fresh beef five days a week, and the main reason for the alteration in the tender form was to widen the source of supply, and to obtain the best quality at the most reasonable price. The words in the tender form are general, and include beef from imported cattle killed at the port of entry. There is no intention of again substituting home-bred for home-killed in the tender forms.

Discharge of Master-Gunner Metherell.

Mr. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now give any further information with reference to the circumstances under which Second Class Master-Gunner Metherell was requested to claim his discharge.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) On inquiry it appears that this man was granted an exemplary character on discharge in error. I regret, therefore, that, under the circumstances, he cannot be permitted to rejoin the Army.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Natal Civil Servants.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Natal Government entered into contracts in writing in 1902, through the Agent-General in London, with Civil servants then holding appointments under the Imperial Government, guaranteeing certain initial salaries and fixed annual increments till a fixed maximum was reached; whether, at the beginning of last year, the Natal Government broke this contract by reducing salaries by one-eleventh; whether this year, in addition to reduction, the annual increment to which they were entitled by their agreement is withdrawn, and the maximum salary which they were led to expect under their contract in many cases reduced from £500 to £300; and whether any steps will be taken to compel the Natal Government to carry out the terms of their contract with those men.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): The Colonial Office does not appear to have been cognisant of the contracts referred to, and the matter is one which falls entirely within the province of the responsible Government of Natal.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Will the hon. Gentleman make further inquiries?

Mr. CHURCHILL: Yes, if the hon. Member desires it.

White Miners in the Transvaal.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in the event of white miners being thrown out of employment in the Transvaal in consequence of State-aided repatriation of Chinese coolies, compensation will be given to such white men from Imperial funds, or means to enable them to return to their homes.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The hon. Member will recognise that it is impossible for the Government to state how it would deal with a purely hypothetical case.

Mr. LONSDALE: Will the same consideration be extended to white miners as it is proposed to give to the coolies?

Mr. CHURCHILL: When the white miners are employed under the same conditions the matter will, no doubt, be pressed on the attention of the Governments.

South Rose Deep Mine Fatality.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a report of the inquest held upon the bodies of fifty-four men who lost their lives through the recent flooding of the shaft of the South Rose Deep mine; whether a verdict was returned that the mineowners' neglect to provide proper chain ladders, as provided by the mines regulations, was the direct cause of this serious loss of human life; and will he say whether this omission was the result of the way in which the public mining inspectors perform their duty, and what action the Secretary of State for the Colonies proposes to take to enforce upon the mineowners the mining regulations of the Transvaal for the protection of the mine workers, pending the establishment of self-government.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has seen a newspaper report of the verdict of the coroner in which the coroner states his opinion that a number of natives might have escaped had chains or chain-ladders been provided as required by the mining regulations. This appears to be a very grave case, and Lord Selbourne is being asked to report whether any action, and if so, what action, has been taken as the result of this verdict.

Barbadoes and St. Lucia.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the economic loss that has accrued to the inhabitants of Barbadoes and St. Lucia as the result of the withdrawal of the garrison from these islands, His Majesty's Government propose to devote any sum of money to their relief in the form of a Grant-in-Aid.

MR. CHURCHILL: There is no precedent for paying compensation to the inhabitants in a case of this kind. At present both Colonies are in a sound financial position. Barbadoes has a surplus, and St. Lucia has a reserve fund of, I think, over £20,000.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: What circumstances differentiate the cases of Barbadoes and St. Lucia from St. Helena?

MR. CHURCHILL: If the resources of a Colony are greatly impaired, then it becomes a matter for the consideration of the Government. Such circumstances may occur in St. Helena which, so far as we are aware, will not arise in the case of the other islands.

Sleeping Sickness and Game Preserves in South Africa.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the sleeping sickness is now reported to have reached Lake Mweru, in Northern Rhodesia; and whether, in view of this fact and of the facts that the mail carriers, between Chiromo and Blantyre, have been held up by lions, and that the construction of the Government ox-cart road from Katungas to Chiromo was abandoned on account of the presence of the tsetse fly, he will consider the advisability of calling, by telegraph, upon the Commissioner to report regarding the effect of the game preserve alongside the last-named township, and to consider whether it cannot be removed to some more suitable location.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have heard of some of the reports to which my hon. friend refers, but I cannot tell from any information in the Colonial Office whether they may not have been exaggerated. That any connection exists between the appearance of lions, of the tsetse fly and the sleeping sickness on the one hand and the maintenance of the game preserve on the other, is not at present established. But the Secretary of State is addressing the Commissioner upon the subject, and if it can be shown that the removal or contraction of the preserve would increase the health and security of Chiromo and its environs, instructions will be given accordingly.

*MR. REES inquired if the information had been requested by telegraph.

MR. CHURCHILL: No; by mail, I think.

Natal Zulus, Rifles.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Zulus who are at present giving trouble in Natal are armed with rifles, etc., supplied by Birmingham firms; and whether he can say if these firearms are the same that were supplied to them in connection with the South African War.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has received no information on the subject.

Slave Selling in British Northern Columbia.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a system of slavery at present prevails amongst the Indians in British Northern Columbia; whether, under such system, girls, even white girls, are now being sold and have been sold for years in British Columbia to the highest bidders; and, if so, will he say what steps the Government intend to take in order to abolish slavery in this portion of His Majesty's dominions.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State's attention has been drawn to Press reports as to the sale of Indian girls in British Columbia to which the hon. Member refers, and he is confident that the Dominion Government will take any steps that are necessary in the matter.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) thought it should be made clear that the term "white girls" referred to in the Question meant Indians very white in colour.

MR. J. WARD: What difference does that make?

Partition of Bengal.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, with reference to the excitement caused throughout India by the forcible dispersal of public meetings in the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and to the situation occasioned thereby, he is in a position to give a general assurance of a sympathetic nature that such action is in contemplation as will tend to allay the public unrest and re-establish cordial and friendly relations between the Government and the people of the country.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. JOHN MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I hope the hon. Gentleman, as a distinguished member of the Indian Civil Service, will believe that it is the wish and intention alike of the Local Government and of the Government of India to act in a sympathetic and considerate spirit, and to take such measures as may seem most likely to allay the excitement which has been caused by the recent administrative changes. I learn from the Governor-General that in view of the improved tone of local feeling the Lieutenant-Governor has considered himself justified in ordering the unconditional re-instatement of 300 schoolboys whose names had been removed from the rolls, and in withdrawing the circulars previously in force prohibiting processions. I trust that in his efforts to maintain public order without recourse to extraordinary measures he will receive general support.

Turkey and Egypt.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how far is Tabah from the frontier claimed by Egypt; how far is Tabah from the Suez Canal; has the frontier claimed by Egypt ever been definitely marked out on the ground; were the Turkish troops two months at Tabah before the Egyptian Government heard of the circumstances; are the Egyptian troops now in occupation of an island near Tabah, which is claimed by the Turks as theirs; and, considering that Tabah is 130 miles from Suez, whether he will continue negotiations for the delimination of the frontier without insisting on the previous evacuation of Tabah.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): Tabah is three or four miles from the line claimed by Egypt. Tabah to Suez is about 140 miles. I had prepared a detailed Answer to the rest of the Question of the hon. Member, but just before I came to the House I was informed that a satisfactory Note had been received from the Porte; and, if I may be allowed to do so, I should like, instead of answering the Question of the hon. Gentleman, to make a statement to the House. The Turkish Government have informed Sir Nicholas O'Conor that Tabah and the other places in the neighbourhood recently occupied by Turkish troops have been evacuated. Since that statement was made, a Note has been received stating that the Porte does not question the telegram of April 8th, 1892; that a Joint Committee will be appointed to make a topographical survey and map with a view to fixing the boundaries so as to secure the continuance of the *status quo* on the basis of the telegram above mentioned; and that the boundaries will run from Rafah in a south-easterly direction and in approximately a straight line to a point not less than three miles from Akaba. His Majesty's Government have accepted this Note as a reply to their Note of ten days ago, and I hope there will now be no difficulty in settling the details of the arrangement satisfactorily.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether the full Papers in connection with the dispute would be laid on the Table.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I should like to consider that Question. I will do everything I can to meet the wishes of the House and the country. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would give me notice of the Question.

Brandy Adulteration.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the final Court of Appeal under the Food and Drugs Act in this country has decided that brandy consists of grape wine distilled in a pot still; and whether he intends to take steps to prevent spirit made from decayed maize, sago, beet, potatoes, treacle, or rotten rice, in a patent still, being blended in Government warehouses with genuine brandy and described and sold as such.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I do not know to what Court or to what judgment the hon. Member refers. But in any case the suggested blending of brandy with patent still spirit cannot take place in bonded warehouses, as the regulations prohibit the blending in Government warehouses of British and foreign spirits for delivery for home consumption.

Tobacco Duty.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received a memorial in which his attention is drawn to a circular, dated May 3rd, 1906, issued by the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland, Limited, stating that the alteration in the duty on stripped leaf tobacco announced in the Budget is not of a nature to permit of a reduction in the price of tobacco; and what action he proposes to take.

MR. ASQUITH: I have seen a copy of the circular. The alteration in the duties is a very small one—a reduction of 1d. a pound in the present effective rate upon one kind of raw material of which the possible supply for the next two years is of limited amount. I do not anticipate any appreciable loss of revenue from the change, the object of which is to remove an artificial barrier to the natural course of the industry. I have no doubt that the resulting economic advantage will sooner or later find its way to the consumer, but I have never anticipated that its effect would be an immediate reduction in prices.

Tea Duty.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that at a meeting of members of the retail tea trade, held on May 7th at the London Chamber of Commerce, at which over 20,000 shops in various parts of the Kingdom were represented, it was resolved that, notwithstanding the proposals contained in the Budget, no reduction should be made in the price of tea; and whether, having regard to this action on the part of the leading firms in the trade, he intends to adhere to his proposals, or can he see his way to so revise them as to give consumers the benefit of the reduction in duty which the trade has resolved to withhold from them.

*MR. ASQUITH: I have received a communication from the chairman of the meeting referred to, stating that the decision arrived at was that the present retail prices of tea should be continued, and that the quality of the blends should be improved to the full extent of the reduction, thus placing the large and small purchasers in a position whereby they equally benefit. If this decision is acted upon, the consumer will in fact receive the full benefit of the reduction in duty. I was quite aware, when I proposed the reduction, that the benefit to the consumer might take the form of an improvement in quality instead of a reduction in price, and I said so in my Budget speech. I may add, however, that I am informed that an actual reduction in price has been made by many retailers in view of the reduction of duty—even in anticipation of its taking effect. It is not improbable that the force of competition may compel others to follow suit.

Inland Revenue Officers' Grievances.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any representation has been made to him by Inland Revenue officers as to the grievances from which they suffer in respect of their pay and conditions of service; and what steps he proposes to take to remove these grievances.

*MR. ASQUITH: I have received such representations from Inland Revenue officers in various parts of the United

Kingdom; but I find in such facts as have been laid before me no sufficient reason for instituting any general inquiry or for revising the settlement which was made in 1894. It is of course open to officers who may regard themselves as having a grievance to submit their case for consideration through the Board of Inland Revenue.

Metropolitan Police Holidays.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will take into his consideration the desirability of an extension of the annual holiday of the members of the Metropolitan Police force from the present system of allowing ten days to a holiday of fourteen days' duration.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I shall be glad to consider the matter, but I find that the suggestion could not be carried out without an augmentation of the force, which would cost £20,000 a year; and, as the Metropolitan Police Estimate for the current year shows a considerable deficit, due chiefly to the growth of the Pension Fund, I cannot lightly entertain a proposal which would involve so heavy an additional charge on the rates.

Alien Immigration.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an alien immigrant who, so far as the immigration authorities can ascertain, is a pauper, a diseased person, an idiot, or a criminal, is to be admitted to this country if he or she claims that exclusion from this country would subject the applicant to hardship, and that the applicant alleges that he or she comes from a disturbed country or a disturbed district of a foreign country.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I can add nothing to the Answer I gave to the almost identical Question put by the hon. Member on March 15th last.†

Foreign Anarchists in England.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the expulsion of foreign anarchists from France to England, and if, in spite of the provisions of the Aliens Act, such expelled persons are received in England; and in such cases, having regard to the manufacture and explosion of bombs brought to light in and near Paris to the common danger, what steps he is taking for the safety of the inhabitants of London and the prevention of conspiracy to murder.

*MR. GLADSTONE: It would be obviously contrary to the public interest to announce in Parliament any police measures it might be necessary to take for baffling a conspiracy to murder, but I may say that I have no reason to suppose that the public safety at the present time demands any exceptional measures for this purpose. If the hon. and gallant Member has any information at his disposal pointing to an opposite conclusion I should be grateful if he would communicate it to me privately.

Norwich Corporation and the Employment of Children.

MR. GEORGE ROBERTS (Norwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will explain why the assent of his Department has been withheld from the by-laws drafted by the Norwich Corporation under the Employment of Children Act, 1903.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I regret the delay which has taken place with regard to these by-laws, but I must point out that it has been partly due to the inaction of the Norwich Corporation, in not sending to the Home Office certain information which their representatives, at an interview with a member of the Department which took place in February, 1905, arranged to furnish. The Corporation assure me, however, that the by-laws were drafted after full inquiry and mature consideration of the needs of the locality, and I propose, subject to one or two necessary alterations, to give them my provisional approval.

Case of Madame D'Angely—Royal Commission on Police Methods.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case tried before Mr. Denman on May 1st, and dismissed, wherein a lady, Madame D'Angely, was charged with behaving in a riotous and indecent manner in Regent Street on the evening of April 24th last, and to the fact that Police Constables Page, 429 C, and Lucas, 136 C, and Constable 440 C gave evidence on oath that the defendant had attended Regent Street persistently for three months previous for the purpose of committing the offence with which she was charged; and whether, seeing that these statements of the constables have been shown to be untrue and the charge unfounded, he will say what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliii., 1409–11.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper.

MR. H. H. MARKS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in view of the statement made by the magistrate at the Marlborough Street Police Court, in the case of Madame D'Angely, as to the dangers of Regent Street at night, he will cause special measures to be taken to deal with the evil of which the learned magistrate complained.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in the case of Mrs. Eva D'Angely, as in that of Messrs. Gerothwohl and Lavalette, the presiding magistrate at Marlborough Street, while acquitting the accused, did not in any way censure the police for the arrest; whether he has received any Report from the magistrate on the police evidence; and, if so, what action he proposes to take on it.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the proceedings against Madame Eva D'Angely at Marlborough Street Police Court, in which Constables Page, 429 C, Lucas, 136 C, and Constable 440 C, testified that the defendant, who was charged with behaving in a riotous and indecent manner in Regent Street on April 24th, had frequented the West End in this way for three months, and had actually accosted men on the night of her arrest; and will he say what the decision of the Court was, and what steps the authorities are taking to deal with these constables, who submitted this lady and her friends to suffering and indignity.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): The Government are fully alive to the importance of this subject, which is referred to in several Questions to-day; and they find that there is a general desire, shared by the authorities of the police for a full inquiry. In our judgment that inquiry should be directed to the duties of the Metropolitan police in dealing with cases of drunkenness and solicitation in the streets and the manner in which these duties are discharged. For the conduct of such an inquiry we think a Select Committee an inconvenient instrument, and we purpose to appoint a Royal Commission and to bring in a short Bill in accordance with the precedent of last year to invest the Commission with the necessary powers for taking evidence on oath and compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether Madame D'Angely will be given any recompense for the insult to which she has been subjected?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have said we propose to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the manner in which the police do this delicate duty, and into the circumstances which have been so much referred to, that constitute an incident which will be very much in the eyes of the Royal Commission.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Will the House have any opportunity of considering the terms of the reference, because it will be desirable to include other small cases besides those of drunkenness and solicitation?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: This is not an inquiry into any individual case or into individual cases. It is a general inquiry into the manner in which the police discharge their duties and the nature of those duties, but it will, of course, include an inquiry into any cases which the noble Lord may have in his mind.

LORD R. CECIL: I do not think the right hon. Gentleman quite understood me. There are besides these questions of drunkenness and solicitation, other small cases of assault, and I should like to ask how far this inquiry is to go.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think I have said what is the precise nature of the inquiry to be held.

MR. H. BEAUMONT (Sussex, Eastbourne): I would like to ask whether those who are employed in Regent street and are far more interested in these matters than dilettante amateurs, have not repeatedly expressed their entire satisfaction with the way in which the police in Regent street discharge their duties.

AN HON. MEMBER: What do you mean by dilettante amateurs?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The opinion of my hon. friend is of value, but the opinion of the Royal Commission will be of greater value.

MR. H. H. MARKS: Will the consideration of the conduct of the police in the case of Madame D'Angely be deferred until the Report of the Royal Commission?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It will be a matter which will be considered with other subjects of a like kind.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will state the result of his inquiries with reference to the shadowing of Monsieur and Madame D'Angely.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am now able to inform the hon. Member that the statements made to him, as to the correctness of which he asked me on Wednesday last, are almost entirely without foundation. It is not the case that Monsieur and Madame D'Angely have been constantly shadowed by the police; and it is not the case that there were six detectives outside their house on Friday, the 4th instant, four on Saturday, the 5th, and two on Monday, the 7th, as their house has not been placed under observation by the police. Police officers understand that under no circumstances may annoyance be caused in any way to Monsieur and Madame D'Angely, and I have no reason to think this likely to occur.

MR. ASHLEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that I can produce two independent witnesses ["Oh! oh!"] to corroborate the statement?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware of nothing of the kind. Perhaps the hon. Member will lay his information before the Royal Commission.

MR. SLOAN: Has the right hon. Gentleman any knowledge of the shadowing in this case?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have been "shadowed" myself. I have made careful inquiries into the subject, and I have given the results of them.

LORD R. CECIL: What is the meaning of the right hon. Gentleman's phrase "almost entirely without foundation"?

*MR. GLADSTONE: On one occasion there was shadowing. [Cries of "Why didn't you say so?"]. But in answer to the specific allegations of the hon Member, I have told the House that they are not founded on fact.

MR. SLOAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman state the particular case of "shadowing" of which he has knowledge?

SIR H. VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman state who is this Madame D'Angely?

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman give instructions that the practice shall now cease?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have told the House that these officers understand that in no circumstances may annoyance be caused in any way to Madame D'Angely, and I have no reason to think that it is likely to occur.

MR. H. H. MARKS: By whose instructions did the "shadowing" of Madame D'Angely take place on the occasion upon which the right hon. Gentleman admits it occurred ?

[No Answer was returned.]

Convictions of Foreign Women in London.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will give the number of the foreign women who have been convicted during the last year at the Marlborough Street Police Court for soliciting or loose and disorderly conduct; whether the magistrate, on conviction, can issue an order to repatriate these foreigners; and, if he can, the number of such orders made during the year.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am informed that the number of foreign women convicted at the Marlborough Street police court during the year ended April 30th for solicitation or disorderly conduct was 765. The magistrate has only since January 1st, 1906, had power to recommend the making of expulsion orders, and he has done so in one case.

German Uniforms and Street Advertisements.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that sandwichmen are parading the streets of the West End dressed in uniforms of the Imperial German Army, and bearing advertisements of a novel referring to the German nation; and, having regard to the Uniforms Act, will he take steps to restrain an exhibition of this character, more especially during the approaching visit to London of certain German municipal authorities.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that men dressed in the uniform of the Imperial German Army are at present parading the streets of London for advertising purposes; whether he is aware that this abuse of the national uniform is likely to be resented by the officers and men of the German Army, as a similar use of the British uniform would be resented by our own Army; and whether, under these circumstances, he will use any powers he may possess to put an end to this exhibition.

*MR. GLADSTONE: My attention has been called to this form of advertisement, which appears to me both foolish and offensive. The Uniforms Act of 1894 does not apply, but the Commissioner of Police is taking steps to deal with the matter under the Metropolitan Streets Act.

Postal Circulation of Betting Circulars.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can say how many and in what countries are letters, suspected of containing lottery or betting house circulars, detained by the postal authorities.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The information at present in my possession does not enable me to answer the hon. Member's Question.

*MR. HIGHAM (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby): Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that these foreign circulars are being posted in large quantities. Is there no means of detecting and stopping them ?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: We have no right to tamper with closed envelopes.

*MR. HIGHAM: Cannot inquiries be made as to the contents ?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Of whom ?

*MR. HIGHAM: Surely the person who brings large quantities of letters for franking can be asked.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: It is the custom in this country to treat sealed letters as sacred.

In reply to Mr. SLOAN the right hon. Gentleman said he was making further inquiries into the matter.

Betting Telegrams.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can say in what countries, if any, are betting telegrams refused transmission.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am not aware that betting telegrams are refused transmission in any country.

Welsh Coal Exports to Germany.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the quantity of Welsh steam coal exported to Germany during the year 1905; and whether he can state the quantity of such coal consigned to agents of the German Government for use in the Navy.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs): The total quantity of steam coal exported to Germany from Welsh ports in 1905 was 304,737 tons. I am unable to state the quantity consigned to agents of the German Government.

Electricity Bills.

Sir CHARLES McLAREN (Leicestershire, Bosworth): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it is proposed this session to re-introduce into either House the Supply of Electricity Bill which was printed in 1903, and passed through the House of Lords, with Amendments in Committee, in 1904, and which is supported by the general body of electrical engineers, or whether the Government propose to recommend any other legislative changes to facilitate private enterprise in electric undertakings.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I hope to introduce a Bill dealing with this important question shortly, but before doing so I should prefer to have before me the Report of the Committee of this House which is now considering the question of electric supply in London.

Workmen's Trains.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will state what measures he has taken to insure that districts within the twenty-one mile radius of London, not at present certified as urban districts under Section 2, Sub-section 3, of the Cheap Trains Act, should, where a railway company provides adequate workmen's service, be regarded as urban for the remission of duty.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: Under the Section in question a certificate can be granted only when the Board of Trade are satisfied that two or more stations are within an area which has a continuous urban as distinguished from a rural or suburban character, and this provision could be modified only by legislation. No application from a railway company for the extension of the London urban area is at present before the Board.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what steps he is taking to carry out the recommendations of the Select Committee on Workmen's Trains, to prevent overcrowding on workmen's trains.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: This Question is covered by my reply to the hon. Member on April 26th.† Any representations made to the Board of Trade in accordance with the Select Committee's recommendation with regard to habitual overcrowding of workmen's trains on any particular line will of course receive careful consideration.

Bond Investment Companies.

*Mr. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he proposes to introduce a Bill to carry out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Bond Investment Companies.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I propose to introduce a Bill at an early date.

The New Spanish Tariff.

Mr. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs can he inform the House what is the general nature of the alterations in the Spanish Customs tariff intended to come into force on July 1st, 1906, as affecting the manufacturers of the United Kingdom, and more especially as affecting marine machinery, boilers, and their adjuncts; and whether there is any reason to hope that these altered conditions may be modified in a direction more favourable to the British producer.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Kearley, Devonport): The general tendency of the proposed new Spanish Customs tariff is in the direction of increase in the rates of duty, and this applies to the articles mentioned by the hon. Member. It is understood that the tariff is still subject to some revision, but it is impossible at present to say to what extent or in what direction it will be modified. The whole matter is engaging the careful attention of the Commercial Intelligence Committee of the Board of Trade.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 27.

MR. R. DUNCAN was understood to ask what provision had been made for the cases of contracts entered into early in the year and not completed when the new tariff comes into force.

MR. KEARLEY asked for notice.

The Unemployed.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state when the Unemployed Bill promised in the King's Speech will be introduced in the House of Commons.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I am not at present in a position to fix a date for the introduction of the Bill.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state upon what date he asked for the Report from the London Central Unemployed Committee; what are the specific matters to be reported upon; when he expects that he will receive the Report; and whether he will lay upon the Table a copy of the correspondence which has up to the present passed between him and the London Central Unemployed Committee.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Some time since, at an interview at which the Chairman and Secretary of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London were present, I stated that I should be glad to have from that body a preliminary Report on their work, and on Friday last I wrote stating that I was desirous of obtaining such a Report, made up to March 31st last or as near thereto as practicable, not later than three weeks from the date of the letter. I have intimated that the Report should be as comprehensive as possible, and I am in personal communication with the Chairman on the subject. The only correspondence relative to the Report is the letter to which I have referred. If my hon. friend desires it, I shall be happy to give him a a copy of it.

West Riding of Yorkshire Educational Dispute.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Board of Education decided that it was illegal on the part of the West Riding County Council of Yorkshire to deduct one-tenth of the salary of the head-master in voluntary schools in respect of the time devoted to definite religious instruction; whether he is aware that a similar deduction is not made in the case of council schools; and can he say what steps the Board of Education intend to take as a result of the inquiry held in last June.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): It is intended to proceed with the application for a mandamus. The proceedings have been somewhat delayed by the regrettable illness of my learned friend the Attorney-General, but I hope that they will come on shortly.

Consolidation of the Education Acts.

MR. RADFORD (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, for the convenience of Members, he will issue forthwith the measure for the consolidation of the Education Acts.

*MR. BIRRELL: I am proposing to present the Education (Consolidation) Bill at the commencement of Public Business this afternoon. The Bill will be in the hands of Members to-morrow.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Estates.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for East Bristol, as Church Estates Commissioner, how many of the 336 public-houses which were in 1905 on the estates of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have been leased from the Commissioners since 1889, and in how many cases the lease will expire within the next five years.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): Of the 336 public-houses on the Commissioners' Estates in 1905 the number held on leases or tenancies for terms commencing since 31st December, 1889 was sixty-six, but in sixty-four of these cases the terms were renewals or extensions of terms created before that date. The two original leases for terms commencing within the time specified are both of premises in newly developed neighbourhoods, and in one case (a colliery district), the lease has been granted to a Trust Association on Earl Grey's trust principles. The number of yearly or short tenancies was twenty-eight and the number of leases for terms expiring on or before Christmas 1910 was twenty. Of these last twelve have been or will be suppressed on the expiration of the terms for which they are at present held as public-houses.

School Water Supplies in Ross-shire and Lewis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the number of public schools on the mainland of Ross-shire and in the island of Lewis, respectively, for which the water supply is defective.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): On the mainland of Ross-shire there are sixteen and in the Lewis eighteen schools in which the water supply is reported to be defective.

Lochs School Board—Register of Electors.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, whether he is aware that, out of 561 persons on the valuation roll for the parish of Lochs, Island of Lewis, no less than 516 have no vote for school board elections by reason of their rentals being less than £4; and, seeing that this results in schools being placed under the chairmanship of the proprietor's factor, who is chairman of three of the four school boards in the island, will he take such steps as may be necessary to extend the school board franchise to all persons entitled to vote at Parliamentary and county council elections.

MR. SINCLAIR: Pending the issue of the Return referred to in my Answer to his Question of March 26th, I can express no opinion as to the correctness of the figures quoted by the hon. Member. The question of the school board franchise is one to be dealt with in a general Education Bill for Scotland.

MR. WEIR: When will such a Bill be brought in?

MR. SINCLAIR: I cannot say.

Scottish Congested Districts Board.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the number of meetings which have been held by the Congested Districts Board within the last three years; and the names of the members present at each meeting.

MR. SINCLAIR: Eleven meetings of the Board have been held during the last three years besides committee meetings. The maximum possible attendances would have been eighty-eight, while the number actually given was eighty-two.

Scottish School Teachers and the Gaelic Language.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether it is the intention of the Government to establish a Gaelic training college for school teachers in Scotland.

MR. SINCLAIR: As at present advised, the Government has no intention of establishing a Gaelic Training college for teachers in Scotland.

Lewis Landless Cottars.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the number of black and white houses respectively in the island of Lewis in the occupation of landless cottars; and will he say how many of these are not rated.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have made inquiries from the Local Government Board, and the Crofters Commission, and learn that the information desired by the hon. Member is not obtainable.

Irish Land Purchase—King-Harman Hayes.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he is aware that vendors of property under the Land Act of 1903 are now receiving public money by way of price and bonus, added to that price calculated on the entire value of property, part of which belongs, not to those vendors, but to the so-called purchasers, in accordance with the decision in the case of King-Harman and Hayes; will he advise the Treasury to appeal against that decision, on the ground that to the extent of the tenant's property there is no sale; and, if not, will he state his reasons.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): Sales under the Irish Land Act, 1903, are entirely voluntary, and I have no power, whatsoever, to interfere as between vendor and purchaser in the fixing of the price. The Treasury have not asked my advice as to appealing against the decision to which the hon. Member refers, and it would be contrary to the established practice that I should tender legal advice to any department of the Government unless it is asked for.

Irish Land Annuities—Proceedings for Non-Payment.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he will give, according to counties, the number of purchased tenants who have been proceeded against for non-payment of their annuities accruing due in May and November, 1905; how many civil bills, according to counties, at quarter sessions have been issued against tenants who purchased their farms, and in how many cases were decrees granted; whether any proceedings have been taken against purchasers for their instalments in the High Court of Justice in Ireland, and, if so, against how many, according to counties, and in how many cases have judgments been marked; whether the Crown Solicitors instructed to proceed against defaulting annuitants have been in the habit of charging the ordinary costs of a civil bill even in cases where settlements have been arrived at outside of court; and whether this is not contrary to the instructions issued to Crown Solicitors in such cases.

MR. CHERRY: I am informed by the Land Commission that the preparation of the Returns asked for would occupy much time in the Collection Department of the Land Commission and take the men from their ordinary duties of the collection, which at present are very heavy, requiring overtime work. Many of the particulars for the Returns would have to be obtained from the county solicitor employed at quarter sessions. It may, however, be stated generally, that there are now on the Land Commission Books 92,728 payers of Land Purchase Annuities. Instructions were issued for proceedings in all the Civil Bill Courts in Ireland against 2,226 of the above number for the non-payment of the May 1905 instalment, and against 3,054 for that unpaid in the following November. For the instalments due at the same dates 94 and 90 writs respectively were issued in the High Court of Justice in Ireland. The total amount collectible to November and December, 1905, was £843,520. Of this amount all has been paid save £13,690. The costs recoverable by the solicitors employed by the Land Commission in the Civil Bill Courts are settled by the Statutory Rules and Schedules of Costs relating to proceedings in the Civil Bill Courts in Ireland. I have no information that any departure from these statutory charges has taken place.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) asked why the Land Commissioners refused to give hon. Members information when they asked for it, as he had done?

MR. CHERRY: I do not know.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if, in view of a reversal of the decision in King-Harman and Hayes, he will arrange that in every case of sale under the Land Act of 1903 sufficient information relating to the occupation, interest, and improvements of tenants will be available for the readjustment of the prices which such a reversal would render necessary; and that in every case in which the entire cash has not yet been advanced a sufficient portion will be withheld provisionally to await the ultimate decision.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): I cannot presume to forecast the results of a possible future decision declaring a different construction of the Land Act of

1903 from that delivered in the case referred to, but I apprehend that if such a decision were given the information possessed by the Estates Commissioners would be sufficient to enable them to deal with any cases that had not been already disposed of. In any event, however, I am advised that the Act leaves the disposition of the purchase money to the Land Commission, and that the Irish Government cannot control their action in the matter.

Irish Land Administration Defects.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if his attention has been called to the fact that the Treasury has intervened in a number of cases under the Irish Land Act of 1903 in the interest of the landlords and against the apparent interests of the tenants and of the public; that in several of these cases the contention of the Treasury has been overruled by the courts; that in the large number of cases now being ruled without trial, in accordance with the decision in King Harman and Hayes, the Treasury, though asked, refuses to intervene; if he will take steps to have effective intervention granted at the earliest possible date; and if, pending the result, the Treasury will withhold provisionally a portion of the purchase money and bonus in each case.

The following Questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. GINNELL: To ask the Prime Minister if he is aware that it has been judicially declared by the land judge in Ireland that embarrassed tenants are not free agents in purchase negotiations; that most Irish tenants are embarrassed; that by the combined effect of this embarrassment and the abolition of inspection by the Land Act of 1903 the gross price of holdings has been inflated by five years purchase more than under previous purchase Acts; and that the bonus of 12 per cent. is calculated upon and added to this gross price; and, if unprepared to introduce land legislation this session, will he have the power of the Treasury ascertained, and if necessary enlarged, to limit advances of public money to *bona-fide* transactions, and by that means restore value to its proper function as a measure of price.

MR. GINNELL: To ask the Prime Minister whether there is any class of transactions other than those under the Irish Land Act of 1903 which the Treasury recognise as sales though nothing passes in exchange for price in which the Treasury advances that price to the alleged seller and makes the alleged buyer responsible for repayment of the amount with interest, though the corpus was all along the buyers' own property; and, if no other like transactions are similarly dealt with, will he have immediate attention given to the relations of the Treasury to those Irish transactions.

MR. GINNELL: To ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that in the transition from dual ownership now proceeding in Ireland landlords are receiving from public funds a price and a bonus calculated upon the entire value of holdings; and whether he will take steps to empower the Treasury to refuse any advance in respect of the tenant's part of the property on the ground that this part has not been sold.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The hon. Gentleman has put down a series of Questions on a highly technical and a highly important subject, and if he will allow me I will endeavour to grapple with them in a single Answer. He complains, if I understand him aright, of three things. In the first place, he complains that the price paid to the landlord is too high, that it is in fact so excessive as to include in certain cases the value of the tenants' occupation interest as well as the landlord's proprietorial interest. In the second place, that in the cases described the bonus of 12 per cent. on the purchase-money is paid to the landlord in respect to the tenants' interest as well as his own. And in the third place, that the Treasury are not sufficiently vigilant in checking these proceedings. Well, Sir, nobody denies that the price agreed to—voluntarily agreed to—is sometimes a high price, but that is not the fault of the Government or the Estates Commissioners. I do not say that it is anybody's fault. It is the result of legislation passed in 1903, and if the system of voluntary purchase is to be altered nothing but legislation can alter it. If a case be made showing any collusion which is in the nature of a fraud on the Act that will be a matter for the Estates Commissioners to deal with. But if it be a case of calculating the bonus on any price voluntarily settled between the parties, and sanctioned by the Land Commissioners, that is not a matter in which the Treasury can interfere. As to the censure on the Treasury implied in the Question, I believe it to be founded on a misconception of the powers of that Department. The Treasury do not make the advances. They are made by the Commissioners in pursuance of the statutory provision contained in the Act of 1903 as judicially interpreted. With respect to the hon. Member's inquiry as to recent judicial decisions, it is true that the Treasury have applied for judicial decision in several cases coming before the Estates Commissioners, but it is not to be assumed that their intervention was necessarily taken, in the cases to which the hon. Member probably refers, in the interests of the landlord, inasmuch as the interests of the taxpayer are involved in these matters. In some of these cases the Judicial Commissioners and the Court of Appeal (in one instance) have ruled that the interpretation of the law regarding which the Treasury raised a question was correct; in other cases the Treasury on fuller knowledge have withdrawn their objections. In one important case a decision became unnecessary, because a regulation made by the preceding Government was withdrawn by His Majesty's present Government. The case of "King Harman *v.* Hayes" did not raise any point in which the Treasury was interested, and consequently the Treasury did not move in that case. If the tenants or other parties interested or the Estates Commissioners find it desirable to have the issue in that case more fully considered, Section 23 of the Act of 1903 provides a simple procedure whereby the matter may be judicially tested.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.) asked whether the prices were not six or seven years purchase in excess of the prices paid under former purchase Acts.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That I do not know. I am very sorry if they are.

MR. GINNELL said that the right hon. Gentleman had missed the point, which was that the Commissioners had not approved of the prices.

MR. FLAVIN asked whether the price under the former Acts was seventeen years purchase, and that under the last Act was twenty-four years purchase, with three years bonus added.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: So much the worse for the Act. It is not an administrative matter, and I must ask hon. Members to have a little mercy for one who is after all poaching on other people's ground, and has not all the facts before him.

MR. SLOAN: Is it intended to amend the Act of 1903?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I did not say so.

Court of Criminal Appeal.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that during the year 1905 the prerogative of mercy was exercised in twenty-seven cases on grounds affecting conviction, such as doubt of the prisoners' guilt, and that during the year 1904 there were twenty-four similar cases, he can hold out the hope of the Criminal Appeal Bill being passed into law during the present session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I understand that the Criminal Appeal Bill will be brought in shortly in another place. The figures given in the Question are correct, but they are liable to give a wrong impression, inasmuch as a majority of the cases in which the prerogative of mercy was exercised were summary convictions which would not come within the scope of the Criminal Appeal Bill.

Scottish Supply.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will set aside a day soon after Whitsuntide for Scottish Supply.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): When will the Vote for the Secretary for War's salary be taken?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That does not arise under the head of Scottish Supply.

Crofters Act Amendment Bill.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Prime Minister, in view of the serious condition of affairs in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and the urgent need of land legislation, will he state whether he can undertake that the promised Crofters Acts Amendment Bill will be introduced at an early date.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No time is being lost in the matter, but I cannot yet state the day on which the Bill will be introduced.

Local Government and Board of Trade Staff.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he proposes to take any steps, not involving legislation, to assimilate the *status* and pay of the staffs of the Board of Trade and the Local Government Board to the *status* and pay of the Home Office and other Departments, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee appointed by Treasury Minute, dated July 18th, 1903.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not aware that the Committee to which the hon. Member refers made any such recommendations. It is quite true that they stated that it had been represented to them that the salaries of the clerical staff of the two Departments were fixed at a lower rate than in certain other Departments but they did not understand that the question of remuneration had been specifically referred to them and they confined themselves to pointing out that these inequalities had been brought to their notice. No doubt the alterations in the *status* and remuneration of the political and permanent heads of the Department which the Committee recommended would raise the question of some modification in the position of the staffs; but as I have already informed the hon. Member, His Majesty's Government are not in a position to deal with this Question during the present session.

Crimes by Chinese in South Africa.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the Governor of the Transvaal has recently announced his inability to protect His Majesty's subjects in that Colony from the crimes of Chinese deserters from the gold mines, except by arming with guns or rifles every white man living within ten miles of the mines; and whether His Majesty's Government will take steps, either by repatriation of the Chinese coolies or otherwise, to restore order and security for life and property in the Transvaal.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, Sir, my attention has been called to the action taken by Lord Selborne in view of the deplorable state of things to which my hon. friend refers and I can assure him that the Government are fully alive to its gravity. Further measures, which I hope will be effectual, are being considered by Lord Selborne, and I hope that an announcement on the subject will shortly be made.

Sir Horace Plunkett.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he was aware when he consented to retain the services of the right hon. Sir Horace Plunkett, a Member of the late Government, in the ministerial position of Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland, Sir Horace Plunkett was holding the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of John Bowes and Partners, Limited, a company formed in 1886 to acquire the property and collieries of the firm of the same name, and was also holding the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pelton Steamship Company, Limited, a company registered on May 3rd, 1899; whether Sir Horace Plunkett became a director of these companies before or after his appointment in 1899 to the Vice-Presidency of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department; on what dates, respectively, was he appointed to the chairmanship of these companies; does he still hold the position of directors or of chairman in these companies or either of them; and, if so, whether, having regard to the practice of the present Government, which precludes the union of the office of Minister of the Crown with that of company director, and the long established practice absolutely prohibiting members of the Civil Service from being directors of public companies, the retention by Sir Horace Plunkett of these directorships, or either of them, is compatible with his retention of the position of Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Sir Horace Plunkett is not a Minister of the Crown or a member of the permanent Civil Service, and does not come within the rule referred to in the Question. The position he holds is temporary and therefore different considerations apply.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: When will this unique political freak be done away with?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: My hon. friend knows that the matter is being inquired into, and that it is not a matter to be settled in a day.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Why is Sir Horace Plunkett so specially favoured? Why is he allowed to retain his appointment and his directorships, having been appointed by one Government and retained by another?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: He may be very fortunate; but I have explained why Sir Horace Plunkett retains his directorships. It is because he comes in another category, to which this rule does not apply.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Under which category does he come?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Under the Plunkett category.

MR. SLOAN: Are his services retained because he is specially qualified for the position?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir. Not because he is specially qualified above all other possible people. But it is desirable that some more permanent and convenient arrangement should be made with regard to the office, and in the meantime he carries on the work.

Irish Financial Relations.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportions will be contributed to the estimated revenue of 1906–7 in Great Britain and in Ireland, respectively, by direct and indirect taxation; and what were the actual proportions so contributed by Great Britain and Ireland, respectively, in the years 1904–5 and 1905–6.

MR. ASQUITH: It is estimated that the Tax Revenue to be contributed by Great Britain in 1906–7 (excluding Coal Duty, but including the Local Taxation Revenues) will consist of 52·3 per cent. direct taxes and 47·7 per cent. indirect taxes. For Ireland the estimated proportions are 28.8 per cent. direct and 71·2 per cent. indirect.

The proportions of Direct and Indirect taxation in 1904–5 were:—

For Great Britain.	For Ireland.
50·8 per cent. direct	27·4 per cent. direct
49·2 per cent. indirect.	72·6 per cent. indirect.

In 1905–6 the proportions were approximately:—

For Great Britain.	For Ireland.
51·7 per cent. direct	28·3 per cent. direct
48·3 per cent. indirect.	71·7 per cent. indirect.

Irish Postmen's Uniform Contracts.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General what is the amount annually expended on uniforms for postmen in Ireland; how much of this money is expended in Ireland and how much in England; whether the cloth used in such uniforms is of Irish manufacture; and, if not, will he explain why.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The whole of the uniform for postmen and other officers in Ireland is manufactured in that country, under contracts, the actual value of which amounts to about £2,950 a year. The cloth and other materials used are obtained under contracts after competition by firms throughout the United

Kingdom, and I find that three contracts for linings are held by Irish firms.

Irish Produce—Transit Delay.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the repeated delays in the transit of Irish produce by English railway companies; whether he will inquire into the delay in forwarding one 56-lb. box of unsalted creamery butter sent as a sample to Morford Stores, Beaconsfield, a station only a few miles from Slough, consigned at Limerick on April 20th and not delivered until April 25th, also another case in which it took eleven days from Limerick to St. Albans, viâ Holyhead, of a box fully labelled and the address written on the box besides.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: Complaint has from time to time been made to the Board of Trade of delays to consignments of butter from Limerick to places in England, and the Board have obtained explanations in such cases from the railway companies concerned. No complaint has been previously received with respect to the two particular consignments to which the hon. Member now refers, but the Board of Trade have drawn the attention of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company to the matter, and I will cause the hon. Member to be informed of the result.

Poor Law Drug Contracts—Irish Contractors.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that several English boards of guardians have refused to consider tenders of Irish chemical and drug companies for medicine supplies, and have informed such Irish companies that the contracts for such goods are invariably given to local firms; and whether, in view of the fact that the Local Government Board of Ireland insist that Irish boards of guardians must consider English as well as Irish tenders in such matters, he will take such steps as will place Irish firms on the same footing as English firms where tenders for medicine supplies are invited by English boards of guardians.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I believe that some boards of guardians in England and Wales only consider tenders from local firms, but I am not aware of any case in which a distinction has been made between tenders from Irish firms and tenders from other persons not belonging to the locality. It does not appear to me to be desirable that a board of guardians should only consider local tenders, but at present it does not seem to me to be necessary to alter the existing regulations on the subject.

Taxation of Irish Motor Cars.

Mr. JOYCE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the fact that Irish motor car owners, when they bring their cars to England, have to pay a tax of £2 for the car although such car has been duly registered in Ireland; and whether, seeing that this course would lead to the registering of such cars in England, thus entailing a loss to Ireland of such registration fees, he will inquire into the matter with the view of putting an end to this alleged grievance.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: If a motor car registered in Ireland is brought to England it is not necessary that it should be registered afresh in England, and no fee in respect of registration in England is payable. The tax referred to in the Question is probably the carriage tax to which carriages in Great Britain are liable, but which is not chargeable in respect of carriages in Ireland. When a carriage (whether a motor car or not) is brought from Ireland to Great Britain the duty becomes payable in respect of it. The amount varies according to the nature of the carriage.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked as to the course of business for the week.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN replied that to-morrow the Government proposed to take a number of minor Bills in the order in which they appeared in the Paper; that on Wednesday they would take the Finance Bill; and Thursday would be devoted to Supply.

Lord R. CECIL: When will Committee on the Education Bill be reached?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: We have not settled that yet.

MEMBERS AND THEIR RESERVED SEATS.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) asked the Speaker whether his attention had been called to the fact that hon. Members had failed to comply with his request for the observance of the rules as to the retention of seats before prayers, and whether he proposed to take any steps with regard to the matter.

*MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that one or two hon. Members have called my attention to the fact that hon. Members come down in the morning and make use of the card that is intended only to be used whilst they are present in the precincts of the House, for the purpose of engaging a seat, and then go away. The matter has been brought to the attention of the House more than once. I can only once more direct the attention of hon. Members to the conditions under which the cards are issued, and say that the rule is left to the honour of Members to carry out—and that if again my attention is called to the fact that the rule is abused, it will be necessary to withdraw the cards and revert to the old system.

LAND TENURE BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc., with Amendments.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 168.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 168.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 207.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added the following Member to the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Workmen's Compensation Bill: Mr. Younger.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

EDUCATION (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.

"To consolidate the Education Acts," presented by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 206.]

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Acts," presented by Mr. T. W. Russell; supported by Mr. Law, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Glendinning, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Jordan; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 208.]

NAVAL LANDS (VOLUNTEERS) BILL.

"To extend the Military Lands Acts to Naval and Marine Volunteers," presented by Mr. Edmund Robertson; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 209.]

PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks): The terms of the Amendment I have placed on the Paper make clear the grounds on which we on the Opposition side of the House mean to do what we can to refuse a Second Reading to the Bill now before the House. We object to the Bill not so much on account of the merits or demerits which its provisions may contain. We object to it on higher grounds; on grounds of principle. We have heard much during the last few years, both inside and outside the House, of the imperfections and anomalies of our registration and electoral system. Some hon. Members lay stress on one point; others lay stress on another point; but there seems to be a general consensus of opinion that the time has almost, if not quite, arrived when we must submit the whole of our electoral system, if possible, to amendment. The question that arises on this occasion, it seems to me, is the question whether or not we are to proceed with this matter piecemeal, or to deal with it by some wide and comprehensive measure. The Amendment which I now beg to move embodies the opinions which have been consistently held and consistently expressed by those who sit on these benches; viz., that the whole matter of our electoral system is so closely interwoven—one point is so closely connected with another—that it is impossible to take out one point and deal with it by itself. You must deal with the system as a whole. The Bill deals with one so-called anomaly; one flaw in the distribution of electoral power, but leaves out of account other flaws and other anomalies which are of equal importance, and some which are of far greater importance than the one selected. We oppose this Bill because it is founded on the assumption that undue weight is given to non-resident or property voters. The argument on which the Bill is founded seems to be that it is unfair that a voter who is qualified by the accident that he is the owner of property in more than one constituency should be allowed to exercise more than one vote. It is said that one individual should not have more electoral power than his neighbour owing to the accidental distribution of property. That argument implies an imperfect appreciation of the principle on which our electoral system is based. Hon. Members who use that argument treat the matter as one relating to the individual. I think it is generally recognised and known that the whole of our electoral system is based not so much on the representation of individuals as on the representation of localities. Individuals exercise the franchise, but they do not exercise the franchise because of their being individuals; they get and exercise the vote because they have a property qualification within a given locality. The qualification on which they have to give a vote is based in every case on property. A man does not give a vote because he is a man. If he did we should have the system which finds favour among hon. Members on the Ministerial and Labour Benches, viz., manhood suffrage. What are the qualifications of a voter? He is either an owner of freehold property of a minimum value; or he is a lease-holder; or he is an occupier. He does not get his vote as an individual or because he is a man. The latter gets his vote in respect of the property he occupies. Property is, consequently, the essence of every vote given in this country. If, therefore, I am right, there is neither sense nor logic in the contention that a man should not vote in one constituency in which he is properly and duly qualified merely because he can vote in another constituency in which he is also properly and duly qualified. If I vote in constituency A no injustice is caused to other voters in that constituency merely because I am also qualified to vote in constituency X. It seems to me that the electoral power in every constituency, taken by itself, is of equal value. If our system is, as I believe it to be, a system of representation of localities, there is no suspicion of injustice to the other voters if in each locality the voter qualified to vote exercises that vote. The position of the plural or outvoter, if I may use the general nomenclature, is no new and unwholesome growth upon our electoral system. It has been clearly recognised for many years past. I know that mention is made of certain constituencies where plural voters exist in very large numbers, and it is represented that a distinct hardship is suffered by the resident voters. Mention has been made of the constituency of Wimbledon, where there are 4,000 plural voters who, so it is said, swamped the opinion of the resident voters. But I would remind the House that that was done deliberately when the last Reform Bill was passed in 1884. It was recognised at that time that these plural voters had a distinct right to record their vote, to which they were entitled, and that it would be an intolerable hardship if they were prevented from so exercising their vote. The boundaries of the constituency were consequently so adjusted that those plural voters should exercise their votes without injustice to themselves or others. The purpose of this Bill is, however, entirely to alter the arrangement of the Bill of 1884. You intend to establish a mere numerical representation instead of a local representation as at present. If the view of the Government is to prevail, and if it is to be laid down that every voter should have the same fraction of electoral power, that opens a far larger question than that with which this Bill proposes to deal.

The First Commissioner of Works, in introducing the Bill, said that the Bill did not propose and made no effort to establish a system of one vote, one value; but that what it did establish was one man, one value. But if one man is as good as another, surely one vote should have the same value as another. If that contention is to prevail, surely we should have to alter the existing boundaries of the constituencies, and a large measure of redistribution would have to be brought in. There can be no real equality of voting power until that is done. I do not want to weary the House by giving illustrations of existing anomalies, but I shall give one or two instances of the unfair way in which electoral power is at present distributed. I take three of the largest constituencies in the country and compare them with the three smallest. Romford has 45,000 electors and Kilkenny 1,533; and I ask whether the electors of Kilkenny have not greater electoral power than the electors of Romford. Walthamstow has over 35,000 electors and Newry under 2,000. Wandsworth has upwards of 31,000 electors and Galway an electorate of just over 2,000. I do not think any hon. Member can seriously contend that in these instances there is an equal or equitable distribution of electoral power. As long as you have anomalies such as these you cannot have equal electoral power, and no tinkering Bill of this sort can give it. I understand that the voter will have to make a selection before the proper authorities as to the constituency in which he proposes to vote during the coming year. But supposing he does not do that? Supposing for some reason or other, from forgetfulness or from being abroad, he forgets to send this intimation to the authorities. Then I suppose he is to be disfranchised. Is that a fair way of dealing with the question? It is, moreover, made an offence if, after a voter has sent in his first notice to the effect that he proposes in the ensuing year to vote in a particular constituency, in a moment of forgetfulness four or five years later, he alters the constituency in which he means to vote, and while sending a notice to the new constituency he has selected, he omits to withdraw the notice of intention which he had previously given. Then, again, who is to know if he has withdrawn his notice in regard to a particular constituency? Is there any machinery provided in the Bill by which you can readily and easily ascertain where the voter is qualified to vote? Suppose a man is qualified to vote in Northumberland and also in Essex, and he notifies that he is going to vote in the latter county, have you any machinery for finding out whether he has withdrawn that notice. It seems to me that there is a loophole there which will give people who do not want to act in a *bonâ fide* manner an opportunity of exercising more than one vote. It appears to me that there will be great difficulty in finding out those voters who have two qualifications, especially if they live half of the year in one place and half of the year in another. If a man goes on the register as an occupier of a house in the locality in which he lives, you have no means of knowing whether or not that voter is qualified for one or two or even half a dozen constituencies in the country, and so far as I can ascertain the only means by which you can find out whether or not the voter is qualified in other constituencies is by means of the complicated and additional question which you propose that the presiding officer should put to him in the polling booth. If that additional question is to be asked of every single voter on the occupation list I think the task will prove to be a very difficult one. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman has been in a polling booth during the hour immediately preceding the closing of the poll. If he has and has seen the rush at the moment I wonder what value he thinks these additional questions will prove to be, and whether he realises how much longer it will take for each voter to record his vote if this long and complicated question is to be addressed to him. It seems to me that this Bill will bring into existence a large body of unstable voters who will be here to-day and gone to-morrow. An hon. Member said something about gerrymandering the constituencies, and, while I accept the hon. Gentleman's disclaimer as to his intention on that point, I must point out that under the provisions of this Bill you will do a great deal more to increase rather than to diminish the chances of gerrymandering. You will have voters being requested and urged, and, so far as the Party and political agents are concerned, almost compelled to register their votes in one constituency or another according to the exigencies of the different Parties. You will have a possibility, at any rate, of voters taking a strong and active part in securing their votes at by-elections in one place, while at a general election they will vote elsewhere. It seems to me that it will be necessary for the political equipment of a Party agent that he should be also almost an expert in the business of life insurance. Hitherto Party agents have kept their finger upon the pulse of the constituency and their eye upon the Member, but in future they will have to keep their eye upon the constituency and their finger upon the pulse of their Member, and the moment they see any danger of that failing, and the possibility of an election in a year or two, they will have to induce every plural elector to get himself registered in the constituency in which the contest is expected. Moreover, my hon. friend the Patronage Secretary will have a good deal of added power thrown upon his hands by this Bill. At certain times of the year certain lists of honours are published which cause both satisfaction and dissatisfaction to hon. Gentlemen who sit behind the Patronage Secretary. These are looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation. My hon. friend the Patronage Secretary has unexampled opportunities of acquiring an intimate knowledge of the many virtues and undoubted qualifications of those Gentlemen who sit behind him, because he is able to obtain his knowledge at first hand. With the knowledge which he possesses he would be more than human if he did not make use of the power which is given to him. He would be able to breathe a word of warning to the local agents in those constituencies which were likely to be affected, and the agents would be more than human if they did not take advantage of the warnings which they received. I believe that if this Bill is passed it will lead to ceaseless intrigue and great instability. My view is that the Bill which the Government whose boast it is that they were returned by the workers and not by owners of property, have introduced is in reality a Party measure which is designed to give them even greater influence than they possess at the present moment. My suspicion is confirmed by a speech which was made some years ago by my hon. friend to whom I have just alluded, the Patronage Secretary. It was delivered in his unregenerate days in 1894, and, speaking of a Bill which would have had the effect of abolishing plural voting, he said it seemed to be not a Registration Bill but an attempt to dish the Unionist Party. It seemed to him that it was a cardinal principle of the Gladstonian Liberal Party that they and they alone were fit and proper occupants of the Treasury Bench, and that if the constituencies did not agree with them so much the worse for the constituencies, and they would have to be altered. Further, my hon. friend said that he believed that if the Gladstonian Party had not thought in their inmost hearts that the Bill if carried into law would be of service to them very little would be heard of one man one vote.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): I will reply as thehon. Member for Manchester did. He stated that he did a great many silly things when he was a member of the Conservative Party, and that he left the Party in order that he might cease from doing them. That is my case.

MR. FORSTER: My confidence in the hon. Gentleman is rudely shaken by the confession he has just made. I think all the arguments that may be adduced in support of this Bill might or might not be good if they were used in support of a proposal for manhood suffrage, but they are without force and without value when used in support of this paltry and Party coloured measure. In my opinion the Bill is illogical in its conception, fantastic in its methods and proposals, and unfair in its incidence. If you are going to deal with this matter at all you ought to deal with it in a wide and comprehensive manner, and if you insist that every man shall have but one vote you are bound in logic and in equity to see that every one shall have an equal value. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'this

House declines to consider a change in the franchise unaccompanied by a scheme to remove the serious anomalies now existing in the distribution of electoral power.' "—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The hon. Member who has just moved the rejection of this Bill has divided his speech into two different parts, of which one alone is mentioned in his Amendment. The first half of the speech of the hon. Gentleman supported the Amendment; the second half dealt with the difficulties of the system which the Bill sets up. I am entirely opposed to the views expressed in the first half of his speech, and we shall have to deal with the second part in Committee, although I propose to-day to make some reference to the complexity of this subject. The first part of the hon. Gentleman's speech put forward the view of the Party to which he belongs. He dealt with this Bill as one which makes a change in the franchise. The whole complexity in this form of Bill, which differs entirely from the proposals on the subject of the previous Liberal Administration, is caused by the fact that it does not deprive any voter of the Parliamentary franchise. It is to that that the complexity of the Bill is due. The Bill, in the opinion of many of us, is far too tender to the Party opposite who support the present condition of things—but before I come to that I should like to deal with some of the general arguments adduced by the hon. Member for its rejection. At the end of the first part of his speech the hon. Member asked whether he had made the Conservative view of the question clear to the House. He said he hoped he had made it clear to the House. He put only too clearly to the House, with a clearness absolutely crude, the intense desire that actuates every person who has any sort of property qualification to vote for each such qualification. That is an argument in favour of plural voting on every qualification in any district. The hon. Member asked us whether we thought an undue weight was given to the owners, and when he repeated the statement at a later stage he asked a slightly different question. He asked us whether we thought undue weight was given to property and he mentioned the great properties held by the great families of England. We do think an undue weight is given to the owner not only under the system which this Bill seeks to alter, but also in all the extraordinary advantages that are given to him in the registration system. But with regard to property, the class of person who comes within this Bill is not so much the great owner of property as the small city man; the man who has the ordinary city qualification of occupation and who at the same time enjoys the privilege of voting all over the country in respect of small investments in land, cottage property and the like. The hon. Gentleman says, and says rightly, that the whole of our electoral system rests on the basis of property, and that the franchise is regarded as a local rather than as a national right. When it suits hon. Gentlemen opposite they do not take that view. When the decision of the country upon a particular point is in question they instantly add up the figures and count every voter as if he were a different person. You never hear anything of the plural voter when it is a question of a South African War. Technically, as the hon. Gentleman says, the franchise in this country is local, and the fact of its being local has led to an enormous amount of plural voting. The changing of counties into single-Member districts has vastly added to plural voting in its most abusive form. In some of those counties where the division was made much smaller than before we have the greatest amount of plural voting. The division is entirely technical. The hon. Member speaks of it as a county vote, as if a Surrey man desired to have a Surrey vote. I can quite understand the hon. Gentleman's view because he is a cricketer, and the old counties exist only for cricket. For all other purposes except for cricket the old counties have disappeared. These divisions are absolutely technical. Take, for example, the illustration he gave of Wimbledon. He took Wimbledon as a strong case, but who are the ownership voters in Wimbledon? Who are these 5,000 who exercise this ownership qualification? The fact is they are the whole of the so-called Surrey voters who are within the county of London. They are not in the county of Surrey at all except for the Parliamentary vote. But these London freeholders are all put into the Wimbledon Division because they must be put somewhere. They have not even to go to Wimbledon to vote, and those of us who have London occupation—who live in London houses—and have London freeholds, however small they may be, are put artificially in Surrey or Middlesex or Kent and go to vote in the same parish in which we are living when we hold the vote for other property. What becomes of the beautiful local theory? The whole thing is technical, and if we left the system alone in the Bill of 1885 which was an agreed measure of the two Parties it was in the belief that it was impossible to treat the matter in any other way under the circumstances of that moment. I proceed to deal with the definite allegations in this Motion. To the extent of the alleged change of the franchise I do not admit it; and whether it involves a redistribution of seats we shall see in the illustrations to which I shall allude. I agree that this Bill is somewhat complicated. It is a most ingenious Bill—as ingenious in its drawing as was the speech of my right hon. friend upon the First Reading, upon which I trust he will accept the belated compliment of one who has known him almost all his life. The admirable speech on the First Reading and the drawing of the Bill are complex because of the tenderness shown towards the existing system. The Bill does not change the franchise; it does not take the vote from a single Parliamentary voter who now has a vote; and it does not give a vote to anyone who does not vote at the present time. It makes no change in the franchise. It prevents a person voting in more than one place and that is all. As to the words of the Resolution alleging a change in the franchise such as involves a redistribution of seats; if the effect of this Bill were to increase the disparity of which the hon. Member was speaking I should imagine that there was some strength in his contention, but the effect is the exact opposite. The effect of this Bill is largely to reduce those disparities, and to take a step towards one vote, one value. The reason of that is obvious. These votes are most numerous in a suburban constituency into which they are put artificially, and in those cases, such as Wimbledon, Ealing, and Pudsey, the constituencies are much above the normal electorate of those adjoining them. The effect of taking off all these votes would be to bring those constituencies to a more reasonable value and more akin to those which they adjoin. The Bill also tends in the same direction in regard to England as compared with Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. There are far fewer of these votes in Scotland and Wales than in England, and there are virtually none at all in Ireland. Therefore the reduction is a reduction in the English numbers of the Parliamentary electorate, which are at the present moment unduly swollen by these plural votes. I do not know whether the House will think it necessary that I should prove what I said just now, that the Bill tends in the direction of one vote, one value. It is easily proved by figures, and I know that the House is easily bored by figures, but I can take two or three localities, where there are the largest number of such votes, which are personally known to myself. In Gloucestershire the effect of taking off this great number of votes from Gloucester and Cheltenham would be to reduce the Northern or Tewkesbury Division to the same level as the Stroud Division, the Cirencester Division, and the Forest of Dean Division, which adjoin it. Take the Stretford Division of Lancashire. If the ownership votes were taken out of the Stretford Division it would greatly improve the condition of South-East Lancashire as regards the distribution of seats. The Stretford Division has over 23,000 electors, the Heywood Division 10,000, and the others lie between those two. Take out the whole of those ownership votes, and the divisions in South East Lancashire would be more akin to each other than they are now. So with the county of Leicester, and so, without exception, the county of Lincoln. The same, too, is the case as regards Middlesex. It would bring Ealing to the same rank as the adjoining divisions of Brentford and Uxbridge. I have found only one slight exception going through the whole of the counties, and that one so slight that it can be hardly said to break the rule. Therefore on the whole it cannot be said that this Bill either changes the franchise in the sense of giving it or taking it away, nor is it a Bill which touches the redistribution of seats except that it makes the anomalies less great than they have been up to the present. I think that that part of the case strikes at the root of the Resolution which the hon. Member for Sevenoaks has made. The terms of the Resolution are incorrect because it makes the statement that there is a change in the franchise by this Bill, and that it necessitates a redistribution of seats. The hon. Gentleman attacked the machinery of the Bill. I admit to the full that the machinery of the Bill is complicated and that its working will be costly, but the whole of the complication and cost are caused by a tenderness for existing interests. If we adopted a single and simple franchise instead of the seventeen different franchises as at present, it would do away with all this complexity and reduce the cost. With regard to the machinery in this Bill, let me try to make my exact position clear. It is a very technical and difficult matter. There is a pernicious practice, of which I believe I was the unfortunate inventor, known as the practice of starring, the different systems of which finally became so complicated that a change was made by Order in Council. Now there are these extraordinary complications, and this Bill has to find its way through the mess and tangle because we will not disfranchise a single man. There are, of course, the most obvious difficulties in its course. Those difficulties caused the present Secretary of State for India and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in their Bills to take a much simpler course, but one open to objection on another ground. In this Bill the most scientific machinery has been set up for getting round those difficulties. There are the voters with unknown qualifications in other parts of the country. Many of those qualifications are illegal. I possessed a vote in a Metropolitan Division for a long time through a trusteeship, and I did not become aware of the fact until I received a polling card in connection with a by-election. I was without knowing it a voter in South Hampshire up to 1885 in respect of a qualification I never owned, which my father never owned, but which I believe my great-grandfather owned. The whole position of the ownership voter is anomalous in the extreme. The ownership voter never dies. There is really no revision of this list, even in the constituencies where the greatest trouble is taken to revise them. There are numerous people who remain on until the names become those of their sons. The father dies, the son succeeds, and the Christian name is altered to correspond with the facts. The revision of the ownership lists is scandalous, and no change of the system of revision will do, because the votes are not local votes. I have said that many of these votes are illegal. A late Member of this House had thirty-seven borough votes, although he was not, I believe, entitled to more than two. Admitting all this difficulty, and that the whole of the difficulty is due to the absence of a single and simple franchise, is there any way that the difficulty can be met? I fear that if the House insists on not changing the franchise at all in this Bill it is most difficult to improve the machinery. If the House were prepared to go so far as to cause the voter to remain on the list, qualified for the place where he resides—that is to say not for his property but for the constituency in which he resides—the difficulties would be greatly lessened, the Bill would be much shortened, and the inquiries much less; but I admit there might be disfranchisement in that case. The Bill uses the words, "the constituency which he has selected." The House must make up its mind that there will be no real selection in the great majority of these cases. The selection will not be the voter's own, but it will be a selection made for him, and there is an enormous possibility that fraudulent selections will be made—such frauds, for instance, as accompany the making of lodger claims, and the declaration given by owners that they desire to vote at a particular polling station for which they have no local qualification. If we take residence and say that the man should vote in the constituency where he resides we should considerably simplify this Bill, but we should disfranchise a few people—the gentleman, for instance, who has a University vote and lives with his parents in London. A few people of the great landlord class also might be disfranchised, but are you going out of exceeding tenderness for these classes to continue to confine elections to rich men only, by reason of the enormous cost? Radicals must take the Bill as a text for the necessity of a simple and extended franchise. Because the House will not accept a national suffrage like that adopted in Australia we are driven to accept the complicated machinery of the present Bill. Personally, I cannot but urge on the Minister in charge of the Bill to take his courage in both hands, and try whether he cannot alter the Bill in Committee into a simpler measure.

*MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I do not wish further to allude to the speech made by the hon. Member for Pudsey in his unregenerate days beyond stating that in the speech already quoted he said "that this was entirely a great disfranchising measure." He has told us that his reason is that he has joined another Party and he has ceased saying foolish things. I hope that will be the result in regard to many other hon. Members who have joined the Party opposite. There are numberless cases in Yorkshire where men have two distinct interests. There is the business man in the town, who lives in the country, and who takes a prominent part in the affairs of the country. Surely he is entitled, as belonging to some great business firm in the town, to have that business represented. He may be a very good man in his own place in the country, a good agriculturist, and a large employer of labour, and surely he is entitled to have a voice in the representation of the district in which he lives in the country. I do not contend that there are not anomalies that would be better done away with, but I say that this Bill only sweeps away the lesser anomalies and allows greater ones to stand. We have reason for believing that this is being proposed with a distinct Party object, and that an advantage is expected to accrue to the Party opposite from the passing of this Bill. We have been told that this is not a change of franchise. If this Bill does not propose a change of franchise why is it brought in? Clearly its object is to effect a change in the franchise in the interests of the Party opposite. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean stated that the suburban districts contained the very worst cases of inequalities under the present system which ought to be dealt with. I can give a case of inequality which is not in a suburban district at all. As a case of anomaly I may mention that of my own constituency of Barkston Ash, where there are over 10,000 voters, while near it there are two small boroughs, with 3,000 voters, with the same electoral power. I think also there is a strong argument against the Bill in the tactics it will introduce into electioneering. Every Member knows how heavy a burden registration work already is on those who attempt to obtain seats in this House, and I think it will be a great mistake to do anything to make it more difficult for a poor man to enter Parliament. There is no doubt that the Bill will make the tactics of a clever election agent more effective and more valuable than at present. Under it constituencies may be carefully prepared, and one constituency placed at a disadvantage as compared with another, and one Party as compared with another. Hon. Members opposite are pledged in principle to Home Rule for Ireland, and Home Rule for Wales; may I put in a plea for Home Rule for Yorkshire, which is certainly as intelligent as Ireland or Wales? If this were carried out there might be a case for the Bill, but until this is done I think there should be, as at present, full representation of localities. I hope, in the interests of his own Parliamentary career, the right hon. Gentleman will withrdaw the Bill and bring in a larger and more statesmanlike measure, which will not be open to the reproach of having been conceived in the interests of one Party.

*MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): May I, on this occasion, claim the indulgence of the House and the kindness which is always extended to a new Member? The Party opposite know that they have no case against this Bill. They do not say that plural voting is a good thing, or that the abolition of it is a bad thing; they only say that they decline to consider this proposal unless it is accompanied by some other change, by which they mean an alteration in the system of the distribution of seats, which simply amounts to this: that the passion of the Opposition for reform is so great that they cannot take a simple reform by instalments. They ask for two loaves or no bread, for two reforms together or no reform at all. It might be interesting to know how far they are prepared to carry that argument. If this Bill is carried, and assuming that the Government next year introduced a large scheme of redistribution, would our hon. friends opposite then tell us that they would not support redistribution unless it was accompanied by a measure for manhood suffrage, and then if manhood suffrage was introduced, would they say that they were unable to consider that unless it was accompanied by a reform of the power of the House of Lords? What I want to know is whether there is any necessary connection between the question of redistribution and the question of the abolition of plural voting. At any rate I do not think that last July hon. Gentlemen opposite considered that there was any such necessary connection as they now claim. When we had those interesting exercises in political mathematics we did not hear much of the necessity of abolishing plural votes. Everybody knows that some men never see a key without thinking of a prison. There are some gentleman who cannot hear a bell without thinking of dinner. In the same way I think it may be said that hon. Gentlemen opposite, whenever they hear the very necessary cry "One man, one vote," respond to it by the cry "One vote, one value." They seem to think that there must be some connection in nature between these two reforms. I do not think we are going to be deceived by such a juggling with words. The fact that one locality is better represented than another is no reason why one man should have ten votes while another man has only one. Plural voting is a class privilege. That is the real reason why the Liberal Government object to it. It is enjoyed by the rich at the expense of the poor. No working man had ever more than one vote. He thinks himself fortunate if he can be sure of one. Hon. Members opposite say that this is a Party measure, and that it is proposed for motives of Party advantage. If that is so, I suppose hon. Members opposite will agree with me that those who are opposing it may be subject to the same weakness. According to their doctrine if you oppose a necessary reform it is a virtuous and laudable action, but if you try to bring forward a reform which may be of some advantage to your Party, then it is a heinous sin. If a rich man wants to have his property represented, as he is perfectly entitled to do, he has the town council and the county council representation. If he has property in more than one area he has votes in the different areas. This House ought to be a national assembly. The nation consists of men and women; it does not consist of houses and landed estates. I admit that I am a gross offender in this matter. I think I am represented by something like five gentlemen on the other side of the House. The two right hon. Members for Oxford University, the noble Lord the Member for the city of Oxford, the hon. Member for Westminster, and the hon. Member for the Holborn division of London, are I believe, all my representatives in this House at the present time. It is a consolation to me, if I propose to sever my connection with all these Gentlemen, that there will not be much love lost between us. I think I may say that they would as cheerfully disclaim me as a constituent as I am willing to renounce them as my representatives. I should like to state one more personal reason why I believe this measure to be necessary. In my own constituency of South Oxfordshire we have in all only 500 out-voters, or one in eighteen of the total electorate. Hon. Members are aware that that is a very small proportion as compared with what may be found in many constituencies. Although so small, I believe it is perfectly true that on two occasions these 500 voters have been quite enough to turn the scale at elections. Except for this anomaly of plural voting, not only in 1895 but in 1900, the hon. Gentleman who is now Member for the Cleveland Division, and who holds the office of Under-Secretary for the Home Department, would have been Member for South Oxfordshire. I am sure my constituents must sometimes feel in their hearts that they have been cheated of their Under-Secretary. He was their first love, and I am at the best a second attachment. I am aware that I cannot change places with the hon. Gentleman, but at any rate I can do my best, and I intend to do it by supporting this Bill, to see that no such calamity occurs again.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I regard this Bill as an attempt to deprive certain citizens of this great nation of their just political rights. From time immemorial the Parliamentary franchise has been based on possession or occupancy. I cannot see the fairness of taking away votes from the landowner because he has land in two or more constituencies. If you take, for instance, the proprietor of a property in the north of Scotland who succeeds to property in the south of England, I cannot see why he should be deprived of a vote for one of these places. I quite agree that if there is any grave scandal arising out of men buying small holdings with the object of getting votes, that ought to be stopped by the introduction of a Bill to amend the law. It is not proposed to deprive individuals of their votes for parish councils, district councils, county councils, and school boards, and I cannot see why, unless for a small party advantage, it is considered necessary to deprive proprietors of their plural votes. I shall therefore oppose the Bill.

*MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): After listening to the speeches of hon. Gentlemen opposite, I am forced to ask why it is that when you try to do some good thing someone always asks why you do not do something else? This is a very good Bill to abolish plural voting, but right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite want to know why we do not go in for a scheme of redistribution and the extension of the franchise to women. Personally I should be in favour of a very much stronger franchise Bill than this. We should have a shorter period of qualification, the lodger franchise should be extended, and other reforms should be introduced so that we might have not only one man one vote, but every man a vote. I am sure that our system will not be on proper lines until these reforms are brought about. The line on which this Bill proceeds is already in force in some cases. For instance, I may take my own case. I happen to have in the city of Edinburgh a qualification in three different divisions, but I am not allowed to vote in each. I must make my choice of the one in which I will vote. In the division in which I vote I am misrepresented in the most graceful way by the hon. Member for West Edinburgh. On the other hand, I have a friend in Edinburgh who has qualifications in three parts of the municipal area of the city and he has three votes. He has one vote in Edinburgh, one in the Leith burghs, and one in Midlothian. There is a small anomaly near my own door which will be cured by this Bill. I will have one vote, and my friend will have one vote. The right hon. Gentleman kindly allows us to choose which vote we shall have. Personally I should have preferred that he had made the votes according to residence, but I know how difficult it is to put salt on the tail of voters who have several residences, and to say where the real residence is. The vote at present is given too much, as I think, on the ground of property. As a matter of fact, there is a tremendous difference between the franchise for local bodies, such as town councils, parish councils, or county councils and for Parliament. The local bodies impose rates on property, whereas the Imperial Parliament does not. The taxes imposed by the Imperial Parliament are for different matters altogether. That is a reason why something on this line should be carried out. I am glad that the right hon. Gentleman has proceeded in the way he has done. He has taken the line of least resistance. I do not mean resistance by hon. Gentlemen on the other side, because they would resist very strongly whatever line was taken. I mean the least resistance in regard to the existing law. He has adopted the system which will be most easily worked. There are one or two points in regard to Scotland which I should like to mention. There we have in every county constituency a large number of out-voters. Some of them are, under the present system, quite justifiably entitled to vote in the particular constituency. We have what is called in Scotland faggot votes. That is a qualification manufactured for out-voters. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment said that the representation of this country was based in accordance with locality. That is exactly what it is not. According to the present system, what we object to is that these plural voters swamp the opinion of the locality. I remember a case which came before a registration court at which I was present. A young man claimed to be put on the list of voters, and he was asked on what qualification? He replied as a lodger; and produced a document signed by his mother to the effect, "Received from my son the sum of £10 for the purpose of giving him a Parliamentary vote." I could give the House other cases where votes have been deliberately manufactured for the purpose of swelling the chorus which drowns the voice of the local residents. Take Peebleshire: It is notorious that so unpopular has been this faggot vote system that special police protection had to be provided to guard these undesirable aliens during their temporary residence in the county for the special purpose of voting. My hon. friend the present Member for Peebleshire has managed to overcome the thraldom of the non-resident faggot voters. The right hon. Gentleman, in his opening speech, said that the Scotch system of registration was better than that of England, inasmuch as the new register came into force on November 1st, as soon as it was ready, instead of being delayed till January 1st, as is the case in England. In regard to the special provisions for Scotland, I would suggest that the right hon. Gentleman might make a slight alteration in the clause by which an extra star has to be put between November 1st and January 1st. I do not think that any hardship would be done if the right hon. Gentleman made the alteration that the time for making the selection was during the currency of the register. Generally speaking, I think the House may congratulate itself that it has got before it a valuable measure, though not comprehensive or covering all the injustices and iniquities. That will come all in good time. We all hope that the present Government will not go out of office until they have extended a larger measure of the franchise than that which we at present enjoy. But this Bill brings us a stage nearer a true representative system.

MR. WALLACE (Perth): If at present the representation of this country were based on the number of electors in particular districts there would be great force in the Amendment, because if the number of electors in different districts was to be altered we should have to alter the boundaries of those electoral districts. But that is not the basis of representation in this country. We have never considered the number of electors to be found in a particular district. Population is the basis of representation. If this Amendment were approved of, a Commission would have to be appointed to revise our representation, and the effect on our boundaries would be absolutely nothing. Therefore I say frankly that this Amendment is purely dilatory, and not intended to create a change except by resistance to the measure itself. Some hon. Members seem to consider that representation is based on property, and that property is specially recognised in this respect. As a matter of fact, anyone acquainted with the present representation must be aware that those who own the most property have the least representation. A man may own half a county, and have property in different divisions of a county, but he gets only one vote. On the other hand, a man may own in each of thirty counties only a quarter of an acre, which has been acquired for the specific purpose of getting a vote in each of those counties. A man may be a land jobber, or a house broker, or a faggoteer, and by that means may acquire thirty or forty votes in different constituencies, while a man who owns 100,000 acres in one county has but one vote. The opposition to this Bill is really not meant for the protection of property owners at all. Many years ago it was my lot to act as revising barrister in one of the divisions of Middlesex and in London, and I there saw the differences which arise in connection with the claim for votes. In London there are a large number of shopkeepers who have a great variety of small shops throughout the Metropolis. If they own shops in the different London boroughs they get a vote in every one of those boroughs. I myself have put such men on the register, giving them ten, twelve, fifteen, or even twenty votes, not because they were great property owners, but because they occupied small shops in different constituencies. If a man owned a shop in each of the seven divisions of Tower Hamlets he would get only one vote, but if he owned a shop in Tower Hamlets, one in Hackney, and another one in Marylebone, he would get a vote in each of them. Where is there any proportion in regard to such representation as that? There are divisions in London divided by a road. An owner of shops on one side of the road might have only one vote, and if he owned shops on the other side of the road he might get fifty votes. The anomalies of the present system cannot be defended. It is not a question of property. I could understand it if our friends were prepared to stand boldly for the doctrine that the value of a vote depended on the monetary or land worth of the man. I can understand a system that if a man owns a large amount of property he should have votes according to the value of that property. That is an intelligent system, although nobody would suggest for a moment in these days that it should be adopted. Now, as all are agreed that we must have a measure of this kind—[OPPOSITION Cries of dissent]—Yes, I say that not a single Member of the House has addressed us to-day who has attempted to attack the general principle underlying this Bill. I can understand a man saying that property has its rights and privileges; but then this Bill does not affect these. It deals only with the ridiculous anomalies which are degrading our electoral system at the present time. I regret that my right hon. friend has not seen his way to go a little further. I realise one of the difficulties that will come up in regard to this measure. It must enormously increase the cost of preparing the electoral lists. It will undoubtedly throw a very heavy additional burden upon hon. Members in connection with the revision of the lists. I believe that the ultimate end will be, which many of us will regret, that these votes will be claimed by the agents on behalf of particular electors rather than by the electors themselves. A man will not consider the variety of places in which he holds a qualification; but if he is a strong Party man—I do not care whether he is a strong Conservative or Liberal—he will desire that his vote shall be so placed as to yield its greatest Party utility. That is Party loyalty; but the result will be that the political agents throughout the country will have to meet and calculate how they will readjust these votes. There is no doubt that the cost will be very great, and that the work will be heavy and difficult. But I recognise that notwithstanding all that, it will be much better than the existing system. The true remedy is: let us not disqualify any individual, but let us insist that whatever qualification a man has, the place in which he shall exercise his qualification shall be that in which he resides. I have heard in these debates about the feeling of locality; that a man should be allowed to vote in the district in which he is most interested. I consider that the district in which a man resides is that in which he has the strongest interest and that therefore he should be a voter there. I regret that I have taken up the time of the House for so long, but this is a subject which I have studied and have a great deal of experience of, and I urge my right hon. friend to consider the questions which I have brought forward. I believe this Bill can be improved, but I would rather have it as it is than not at all.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): I agree with the hon. and learned Gentleman who has just spoken that the result of this Bill, should it become law, will be enormously to increase the complications and expense of elections, and I entirely agree with him that our electoral law is entirely unsatisfactory and anomalous in many respects. I do not, however, draw the same conclusions from these premises as does the hon. Member. It is a curious fact that the zeal of hon. Members opposite for the rectification and purification of our electoral law has been displayed in one direction and one direction alone. I wish to test this desire for electoral purity and electoral equality, and I want to ask whether the end in view will be attained by the course which is being taken. I must confess that this Bill seems to me to savour much more of what I may call a Tammany Hall device than of a measure calculated to redeem our present system from anomalies. What I mean by that is, that if it had been the desire of hon. Members opposite to promote a Bill which had for its object wholely and solely a Party advantage, then they would have drawn it almost line for line in the same way as the Bill which is now before the House. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] I think I can show that, but I would point out that in taking these steps hon. Members have not the merit of following even their own principles in dealing with this Bill. It may be that it would be a very logical thing to abolish these plural qualifications, but that is not the proposal which we are discussing. Hon. Gentlemen are not proposing to do anything of the kind. They are seeking to limit those qualifications by bestowing a right of choice upon those possessing them. But why should that right of choice be forced upon them? We are told that this is not a disfranchising Bill. But if a man has five shillings in his pocket and you take away four shillings, that, of course, may not be robbery but it certainly means that you deprive him of a certain amount of his property, and similarly if a man has five votes and you take away four, the measure which does that must be a disfranchising measure. I repeat that if hon. Members had desired to pass a Bill solely for the purpose of benefiting their own Party and their own interests they would have drawn this Bill in its present form. We are told that the Bill will be inoperative in Ireland and Scotland, and I do not think that it will be operative in Wales. It will therefore apply almost entirely to England, and to which parts of England will it apply? We have had three classes of constituencies mentioned. In the first place we have had the City of London, which is represented by my right hon. friend who is sitting beside me, and who leads the Opposition in this House. Then we have had mentioned the Wimbledon Division, the Member for which belongs to this Party. Next the University constituencies will be affected, and those also, every one of them, are represented by Members of this Party. It is no doubt an accident, but it is a very remarkable accident that the direct effect of this Bill will be to remove an electoral anomaly which will touch England in the first place, the Unionist Party in the second place, and many of the most distinguished members of that Party in the third place. I think it was Dr. Johnson who said that a man might shoot at him and say that he intended to miss him, but the Judge would order him to be hanged all the same. Therefore when I see these tendencies I distrust this Bill. Can it really be merely an accident that the Party opposite are unable to do all they desire in the direction of reform at once? It is all very fine to say that we must take what we can get by instalments, but if an authority comes into a street and says "We are going in the interests of public improvement to pull down your house and that of your friend, but we are going to leave all the others untouched until we have completed our scheme," it may be a consolation to know that the action of the authority may ultimately result in the removal of the other houses, but it is no consolation at the time. It is rather an illustration of the old proverb that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." If the Government desire to relieve electoral inequalities why do they not deal not only with this question but with many other obvious cases? Hon Members cannot deny that the Bill is directed against this Party, and Members of this Party. It is perfectly true that one of the anomalies of our electoral system acts in favour of this Party. I think that is true of the City of London, where you have a large number of persons who live outside, an enormous majority of whom are adherents of this Party, but I do not accept the doctrine of the hon. Gentleman who spoke last that you can always judge where a man ought to vote by assuming that his residence is his chief point of interest. In the case of the City of London there is a corporate body and large interests, and, as the votes of the workers in the city may be disseminated over half a dozen counties, if this Bill passes the corporate interests of the city may not be represented. Then as my hon. friend who initiated the opposition to this Bill said, having regard to our electoral system as a whole, it is not an intolerable outrage that the workers in the City of London should, in addition to voting in the City of London, also have some influence in the counties in which they live. If this is an anomaly is it not also an anomaly that whole communities should have their electoral strength multiplied by ten, twenty, or thirty as compared with other communities? Where is the justice of that? You are crying out for justice, but take the case of Newry. We have the borough of Newry, with 2,000 electors, while in the City of Belfast the smallest Division has from four to five times as many voters. Are you going to alter that? You say no. Why not? It may be an unfortunate accident, but it is the fact that you expect to get support from the borough of Newry, and you do not expect to get it from Belfast. We have small towns in England and we also have enormous constituencies, such as are to be found in the neighbourhood of London, all represented by one Member. Are you going to take no steps to remedy that inequality, and do you tell us that there is no analogy at all, and no connection at all between a man having greater electoral power than another, and a man having two votes instead of one? The two things are intimately bound up together, and if one man has thirty times the voting strength of the other it is not, I think, unreasonable to be cautious about rigorously enforcing the rule that no man shall be entitled to have more than one vote. We shall probably come to one man vote, but is it fair to get it by perpetuating the anomaly which is advantageous to one's own Party and removing the anomaly which may be of advantage to one's opponents? The whole thing seems to be part of a policy of which there has been a great deal this session—the policy of directing efforts against one part only of the United Kingdom. There are proposals before the House for dealing with education in England in a way which no one would dare to attempt in the case of Scotland or Ireland. Examples have been cited of advantages given to Ireland in connection with taxation which are not given to England. Why does the Party opposite always direct their penal legislation against England? They allow gross anomalies to exist in Ireland, whilst they apply their virtuous sponge to wipe away anomalies in England. I trust that this Bill will not succeed, as it must be regarded as a Party and a partisan Bill. In its title it pretends to remove an inequality and an injustice, but its intention will, I think, be obvious to everyone. Injustice will not be removed but increased by the Bill.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): I am afraid that in introducing this Bill under the ten minutes rule I outraged what Milton would have called the "cloistered virtue" of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Oxford University, who complained of the course I took in introducing so important a measure under that rule. If so, I offer a humble apology to the right hon. Gentleman, and ask him to attribute the fault to the inadvertence of inexperience rather than to any inherent vice. The fault is mine alone. I thought that in a measure the principle of which is obvious and the machinery of which only is novel, hon. Gentlemen with accurate and academic minds would wish to master the text before they indicted their commentary. The simple and single principle of the Bill is that no plural voter shall exercise more than one of his votes in the same year, and that the place of voting shall be selected by him by notice given to the proper authorities before the completion of the register. That is a principle which I believe will commend itself to at least three-fourths of the present House of Commons. As to the dissent of the remaining one-fourth, it will probably be useless for me to attempt to overcome their objections by any arguments of my own, or to offer to them any of those reasons which make this measure appear to me to be a desirable, though long-delayed, measure of equity and justice. I hope, however, there are few Members of this House beyond the right hon. Member for Croydon and the hon. Member for Uxbridge who will oppose this Bill upon the grounds set forth by the hon. Member for Uxbridge at the meeting of the National Union of Conservative Associations in November, 1898. The hon. Member then said "he supported plural voting as a most valuable thing; that there were several constituencies where, if the plural voter did not exist, the Conservative Party would have no existence in Parliament." I do not suppose there are many hon. Gentlemen opposite who base their defence of the present system on such grounds as this; nor has His Majesty's Government introduced this measure on any assumption that the facts are as stated by the hon. Member for Uxbridge. What does that argument amount to? It amounts to nothing but this, that certain constituencies are to be compelled by the operation of the existing law to return individuals to Parliament who do not represent the opinion of the majority of the residents, and that they shall be compelled to do so by the votes of non-residents possessing some property or other qualification but living outside the district. I will do hon. Gentlemen opposite the justice to believe that they possess some better motive and some more presentable argument than that for wishing to maintain the present anomalous state of affairs. They think that property has its votes as well as its rights, that in fact votes are its rights. I understand that argument, though it does not appeal to me personally, but if they believe it, surely they ought long ago during the long years they held plenary power in this and another House to have carried some scheme for the proportional representation of property—some plan of new votes for old acres. They ought to have provided that a man with a 1,000 acres should have at least ten times as many votes as the miserable squatter with only 100 acres. I should like to ask them how it is that they limit their anxiety for the increased representation of wealth only to those who happen to hold land. Are not the large shareholders in great industrial companies, engineering works, and cotton mills just as much interested in the good government of the country as the ground landlord? Are they not subject to local rules, and have they not equal interests therefore in what the hon. Member for the Oxford University calls "locality"? Are they not as much interested in the welfare and the employment of the inhabitants of the district as the more favoured class? But to them there has not been given and it was not proposed to give additional votes in proportion to their wealth. You say to a man of this class if he is the owner or part owner of the fabric, the structure of a private mill and that mill lies within a county division he shall have a vote for it, but if it lies within a borough constituency he shall not. If he lives in a house near his mill in the same constituency he shall have one vote only for both; if his house is a few miles away in a county constituency he may have a vote there where he is only a villa resident, but none for his freehold mill if it is in a Parliamentary borough where all his interests lie. If he turns his business into a limited liability company in which he holds shares only, then he has no vote at all. The absurdities of the existing system are beyond belief, almost beyond laughter. Why do hon. Gentlemen opposite talk of plural voters as if they are all property owners? That is very far from being the fact. There are thousands of duplicate votes all over the country which have no relation to property at all. Take the common case of a man who lives in the suburbs and has a vote for the county division in which he lives. He rents a business office in the town and then votes for the town, not on account of his wealth or his stake in the country, but on account of his technical occupation, an occupation which may at some time have to be established by the proof that he has a bogus bedroom in the attic. We regard this Bill as an alleviation and an amendment of an anomaly. It is far more a question of geography than of property. The present anomalies are the result of the ancient confines of our counties, the mobility of our municipal boundaries, and the fanciful areas created by redistribution. Of course it would be impossible to keep allusions to Wimbledon out of this debate. It is not surprising that Wimbledon should always trip to everybody's tongue in discussing this question. I think the right hon. Baronet rather exaggerated the numbers of out-voters there; he took the figures no doubt from the old register and he is probably not aware of how active we have been in the home counties during the last year or two. In Wimbledon I believe it would be true to say there are now 3,350 non-resident property voters to whose intelligent activity we owe the charm of the continued presence of its hon. Member. I admit that to that extent we owe Wimbledon a debt of gratitude in that it has saved from the golf course one who was meant to adorn Parliament. But there is a far more remarkable fact about the Wimbledon voters. It is that of those 3,350 non-resident voters, 1,700—more than half of them—own no property in the division at all. They vote there on the strength of freeholds or long leaseholds in London—in Battersea, Croydon, Lambeth, and Wandsworth—and these voters are not even compelled to visit their constituency at an election, because polling booths are put up for them in London where they can register their votes in the place at which the property in respect of which they vote is situated. It will therefore, I think, not be surprising that there is a sense of grievance among the real residents of Wimbledon when they find their representation dominated by these "dumped" voters. Now I do not intend to use the figures I am about to give to the House as an argument, but as an illustration, though unlike some with which we are acquainted they might be used for both. The Tottenham Division is also afflicted like Wimbledon, with a similar class of voters—men who have no land in the division. The number there is 1,400. They have neither land nor residence in the Division, but are drawn from Bethnal Green, Hackney, Shoreditch and Tower Hamlets. The other case is Hornsey, with 2,500 non-resident property voters, 1,600 of whom have neither property nor residence there, and are allocated to that division from Islington and the City of London. I do not think anybody will deny that these facts establish a case which demands reform. It may be said that the Bill does not specifically deal with the particular abuse I have instanced. That is perfectly true, but I believe it will do so in effect. After all, it is permissible to read human nature into an Act of Parliament without putting it into the schedule. Voters are essentially human, and I believe that when they are compelled to select their place of voting they will in the majority of cases select their home or the property on which they reside. Therefore I think we shall obtain from the Bill when it is passed an almost completely residential suffrage, but we shall obtain it without that legal compulsion which always leaves some bitterness of resentment behind. Some reference has been made in the Press and in the House to University representation and the effect the Bill will have upon it. The great Universities have been greatly favoured by Parliament in the past, and they will receive no exceptional disfavour under this Bill. We propose to treat them with what twenty years ago was the declared policy of the Tory Party—the policy of similarity and simultaneity. I am not personally a great admirer of University representation. I think they signally failed to rise to the height of their opportunities this year and justify their right to exceptional electoral existence. [OPPOSITION cheers.] Yes, but not upon the ground which hon. Members opposite appear to think, but because they afforded no refuge to a derelict Prime Minister or even to a stranded Viceroy. What is the argument that has always been used for the continuance of the University vote, and as a justification of their position in the past? We have always been told that it secured to the country the representation of brains, and that it was greatly valued by the intellectuals who were privileged to exercise it. I accept that argument. But the Government are leaving in existence the right to vote for the University to every graduate who wishes to make the choice and who has paid the fees, which is the principal qualification. Are we to be told that the Universities are going to be bled white of voters by the disloyalty of their own *alumni*? Is it to be contended that the country clergy, who form the bulk of that electorate, are going to prefer the polling booth next to the rectory, where they are only temporary lodgers, to the glory and the sentiment associated with their *alma mater*? I cannot imagine it for a moment. I am sure the country curate will spend his last stamp on the proxy which will secure the present representative of Oxford University to the House of Commons as an ornament to its debates. But if unhappily, unthinkably, the contention is right that the graduates are going to be unfaithful to their intellectual trust, and ungrateful for their special privilege, it may fall to the Party opposite on some future occasion to enforce against the depleted Universities their theory of one vote one value. Some fears have been expressed as to the effect of the Bill on the City of London. I do not think the Leader of the Opposition need have any fear for his newly-found constituency. I cannot imagine that the men of business in the city would count any sacrifice too great in order to retain the commercial experience and the fiscal detachment of their two present Members. The hon. Member for the Sevenoaks Division opposed the Bill by waving, timidly waving, the old way-worn flag of "one vote one value." It was not until last year that the country was privileged to know what exactly was the meaning attached to the phrase by the Party opposite, when they exposed, in all its nakedness, the skeleton of their redistribution scheme. Their plan was laughed out of court when it was discovered that their idea of one vote one value was the fixing of a limit of population which retained all the small English boroughs that were supposed to be then favourable to the Conservative Party, absolutely without regard to any quality of value. Redistribution is a measure which rightly and necessarily belongs to the end of a Parliament. The Government do not feel it to be their duty unnecessarily to cut short the life of this very young Parliament by the introduction of a such measure at this moment, nor do they think that this modest Bill should be postponed until the time is ripe for a larger measure. No one will deny that the electoral and registration systems want overhauling, and such overhauling I hope they will receive during the life of the present Parliament. The right hon. Baronet said that there was a danger of declarations being made for voters by other persons. I cannot believe that that will be the case. I believe every individual will make his declaration of selection for himself and is likely to adhere to that selection. I am altogether unable to agree with the suggestion that this is going to lead to enormous cost in registration. I shall be very happy, of course, to consider any suggestion of amendment of machinery at a later stage. It has been said that the Government would have done better by abolishing the property qualification altogether. I should not have hesitated myself to take such a course. But even if we had done so, all the provisions of this Bill would still have been necessary in order to deal with the duplicate occupation vote, and we should have had to set up a complicated machinery to enable somebody to settle what was a man's real residence. The Bill leaves to the plural voter the right to select from among his qualifications the one which he desires to retain. It will enable the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham to select whether he will vote as a Liveryman of the Cordwainers' Company in the City of London for the Leader of the Opposition, or as a resident in East Worcestershire for his right hon. friend the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman will exercise his choice for the good of the Empire, uninfluenced by any petty motive of personal preference. It has been said that provision ought to be made in the Bill for "starring" the voter in every constituency where, by his own selection, he is not to be allowed to vote. I think the labour and inconvenience such a course would entail outweigh its advantages. I myself have no fear that the law will be broken except in the very rarest instances. The class from which plural voters are mainly drawn is a class which desires, above all things, to keep within the bounds of the law, especially when it realises that to step beyond those bounds would entail the severest penalties. I shall, however, be ready to consider in Committee any Amendments to the machinery of the Bill. As for the principle of the Bill, I have no hesitation in recommending it to the House for acceptance. I confess that it was not without qualms of memory that ten days ago I saw the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham go into the lobby against the introduction of the Bill. I trust it was only a momentary aberration, to which even the youngest of us is liable. I beg the right hon. Gentleman to beware of the academic blandishments to which he finds himself sometimes exposed on the front Opposition bench. They are only intended to seduce him from the virtues of his salad days. I cannot bear to see the right hon. Gentleman joining the modern Mrs. Partingtons in an attempt to sweep back the Atlantic of progress with the mop of privilege. I had looked with hope and confidence to the support of the right hon. Gentleman.

After all, convictions may survive the vicissitudes of Party. I learnt my Radicalism at the knees of the right hon. Gentleman twenty years ago, with the result that I "lisped in programmes, for the programmes came." At the general election of 1885, whilst he was adorning the platform, I laboured in the committee-rooms, and as I ticked off the out-voters on polling days I said to my friends (they were *our* friends then), "Be of good cheer. Look to Birmingham. He will save us from these undesirable aliens." I am still too young to have forgotten the teaching of my master. Even now I sometimes revel in the recollection of his discarded truths. Lest admiration should have exaggerated memory, I have referred to the *litera scripta* which alone remain to us of the right hon. Gentleman's Radical Programme. I find in a speech made at Birmingham in January, 1885, the right hon. Gentleman used these words—

> "I am in favour of the principle of one man one vote. I object altogether to the plural representation of property. I will take my own case. I am a terrible example. I have three votes in as many borough constituencies. I use them all on the right side (that was our side then) but I know many of my friends who have ten or twelve, and I have heard of one reverend pluralist who has twenty-three. I consider that an anomaly altogether inconsistent with the principle in which we stood, the principle that every householder at all events has an equal stake in the good government of the country. His life, his happiness, his property, all depend upon the legislation which he is equally entitled like every one else to assist in framing. If we are to make that distinction I am not quite certain whether it is not the poor man who ought to have more votes than the rich man, for individually his interests are more direct than the rich man. If you have had legislation it may lessen the income of the one but it may destroy altogether the means of subsistence of the other."

Since that time we have had bad legislation. Although it has not tended to lessen the income of the one, there have been grave attempts to destroy or make dearer the subsistence of the other. Looking at the right hon. Gentleman's record and recalling his opinion, I venture to say to him in the words used by Lord Randolph Churchill to Lord Hartington —"Come over and help us."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): You will be ruined if he does.

MR. HARCOURT: I can promise the right hon. Gentleman that there will be no tests for a repentant teacher. Surely the husks of the out-voters cannot be a very satisfying diet. The fatted calf of the fully-qualified resident is awaiting the prodigal's return.

*MR. SALTER (Hampshire, N.): After the speech to which we have just listened, if I venture to say a few unstudied words about the Bill, I do so because it appears to me that it is not only in itself a measure of considerable importance but also one which is concerned with principles of the utmost possible moment. I will not argue with the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean as to whether this Bill is a disfranchising measure or not. The Bill has been drawn with skill so as to make it possible to say that it is not a disfranchising measure, but in substance and in truth it is a disfranchising measure. Whilst reducing the number of electors in England, it is said that it would not reduce the number in Ireland. I am not aware of any way in which you can reduce the number of electors in England unless you either kill them or disfranchise them, and as this Bill does not propose to kill them it appears to me that it proposes to disfranchise them. We have been taunted with not seeking to defend plural voting and confining ourselves to the retort that there are other anomalies which more urgently require the attention of Parliament. That is not the ground upon which I desire to oppose this Bill. I would like for a few moments to defend the position of the plural voter upon his own merits. I deny that the plural voter is an anomaly. If the principle of a property qualification be sound, if the principle of local representation be sound, and if the principle that taxation and representation should go together be sound, then the position of the plural voter is logical and unassailable. What I contend is that you cannot logically destroy the plural voter unless you destroy one, if not more, of the three principles which I have enumerated. Upon the last occasion when this principle was placed before the House the attack was based upon the principle of manhood suffrage, but the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill has not taken that course. If he had done so he might have taken up a logical position, but if you take up the attitude the right hon. Gentleman has now adopted, he has no logical position at all. Our electoral system has always been based upon property. [An HON. MEMBER: It is time it was done away with.] I cannot understand the right hon. Gentleman, while retaining and leaving operative this main principle of our franchise, asking us at the same time to sweep away plural voting. If you do away with the plural voter you must also sweep away another important principle, and that is the representation of localities. After all, the property qualification is only a temporary expedient, and we all look forward to the day when no man will be excluded from the franchise. Some look forward to the time when no adult will be excluded, but I venture to say that deeper down than the principle of the property qualification you get the principle of the representation of localities under which the elector does not vote for a Parliament, or Party, or a programme, or a measure, but votes for a man. They unite to select a man who shall be the spokesman for the whole of that community. He is elected for reasons of which some hon. Members appear rather to lose sight. He is not elected to represent any particular trade or interest, but to represent all classes and all interests in a particular area, and it is his duty not merely to take part in the management of national affairs, but also to defend and protect the local interests of his constituency where they conflict with local interests of other constituencies. If you sweep away plural voting it may be true to say that you do not disfranchise a man in regard to his national interest, but you do disfranchise him in regard to his local interests which the law now secures to him. It appears to me that in order to show that the position of the plural voter is unjust, you must in logic sweep away not merely the property qualification, but also the fundamental idea of the representation of localities. The hon. Member for Perth spoke as if this were a question of a man who owned much land having one vote whilst a man with small holdings would have two or three votes. That argument is a curiously unconscious admission that electoral qualification ought to depend on property, but it is not in any way inconsistent with the principle which I have just described. A man who has property, be it much or little, in one constituency is taxed and rated there, and he ought to have a voice in the election of the man who represents that area. As regards movable property it counts for nothing with respect to the franchise. That which gives a man a right to vote is not his wealth or property; it is his local stake in a particular place, and if the principles to which I have referred are sound and just, you are bound to give him the protection of his interest wherever he has a local stake. If you truly desire equality of electoral power you should deal with the great and gross inequalities with which everyone is familiar. If this Bill becomes law it will be costly and intricate, and it will lead to gerrymandering and manœuvring. I venture to urge that this House will stultify itself if they sweep away plural voters while leaving unchallenged and in active operation those three principles upon which, if they are sound and just, the position of the plural voters is logically unassailable.

*Mr. W. JOHNSON (Warwickshire, Nuneaton): May I suggest to right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite that they are very ungrateful? I think they ought to be very thankful for what this Bill leaves them. They have complained that their lot is a very hard one. Many of us think that they should have been hit much harder many years ago. An hon. Gentleman on the other side said that hon. Gentlemen on this side who support this Bill are open to reproach. Do you think that hon. Gentlemen on this side could introduce a Bill free from reproach on the part of hon. Gentlemen on the other side? First of all the Bill will leave you your choice as to where you shall vote. That is a privilege which I do not possess under the Bill. I shall have no choice where to vote. Hon. Gentlemen who have at present more than one vote, though in future only able to use one vote, will be able to choose where they shall go and use that vote most effectively, and you may depend upon it they will use it in that way. They have also complained of the expense they will be put to. Surely that is not a great matter to right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite.

They have wealth and they will be able to spend in order to obtain the advantages of this Bill. We have been told by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon that this is a Tammany Hall Bill. If that is so, I say it is due to the introduction of the principle by the Party opposite. They were responsible for the Local Government Act of 1888, which destroyed the property Vote for County Councils, and gave the occupier only one Vote. I ask the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon, was that an accident? Surely if the local interest that they contend for now is of so much value in Parliament, it is equally great in the counties. You introduced the principle you are now condemning. It is plain that the Party opposite are prejudiced in this matter. We have been told that the Bill is aimed at the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London. If it hurts him in the City of London he must go back to Manchester. There is something dearer to many in this House, and to millions in the country, than the representation of property, and that is the vote of the man with a family. His interest is greater than that of the man who has property. I believe that opinion is shared by right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite, because with all their property and all their wealth, their wives and children are dearer to them than the property they possess. That is a principle in the human breast which you cannot get rid of. We want to base the representation of the people on the principle "one man one vote." We have been told on many occasions that the majority of the people have willed this or that. It is done by the majority which includes the men who have five, ten, and twenty votes. That is how right hon. Gentlemen have gained their power in past years. That principle is to be destroyed. I am very pleased that this Bill has been introduced to destroy that principle, I hope the Bill will pass into law, and the sooner the better, not only for the Party opposite, but for the whole country and the whole Empire.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston): I wish to remind the House of what happened the last time a measure of this kind was brought forward. In 1892 a Bill called the Plural Voting Abolition Bill was introduced by Mr. Shaw-Lefevre. At that time an Amendment was moved by the hon. Member for South Tyrone in these terms—

> "That it would not be just or expedient to carry out the principle of 'one man one vote' involved in this Bill unless the number of representatives allotted to England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively were previously settled in proportion to the population of each of these parts of the United Kingdom and the principle of equality thus secured."

The hon. Member moved the Amendment in an eloquent and convincing speech. Among other things, he said—

> "All I contend for is this. If we are going to take the constitution to pieces in order to correct anomalies, let us correct some other anomalies which are equally patent and flagrant while we are at work. . . . On what principle is a Galway freeman to be counted as six times more influential than a Belfast artisan in this House? If that is not an anomaly greater than the dual vote, I do not know how to weigh the comparative merits of questions."

I am quite sure that what the hon. Gentleman found it convenient to say when out of office he will find it equally convenient and reasonable to say when his Party is in office. And surely what the hon. Gentleman said in 1892 is a strong argument against this Bill. If you are going to do justice do justice all round. Do not correct an anomaly which operates in our favour without correcting far greater anomalies which operate in your own favour. Let me give an illustration of that. I have two occupation votes—one for my own division, where there are 17,000 electors, and another in a part of London where there are over 8,000 electors. Even with these two votes I do not count for so much as a Galway freeman who has a vote in a very small constituency. If you are going to deprive me of one vote, put me on an equality with the Galway freeman who has a much greater voting power.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): We have not plural voting in Galway.

*MR. CAVE: The hon. Gentleman misunderstands me. You have not plural voting in Galway, but you have a much smaller constituency. The one vote of the Galway freeman has, therefore, a much greater value than the votes which I have in this country. I wish to say a word or two on the merits of the Bill itself. The argument that the community should be represented has been already urged, and I will add one illustration. Is it right that the City of London, or the City of Liverpool, or any other great community should be represented simply by the votes of what is called its 'night population,' that is to say, the caretakers and others who dwell in the city by night, and not by the votes of those who do business in the city by day? No one would say that the city was properly represented in that way. Again, the right hon. Gentleman practically admitted that this Bill would seriously affect the University representation. I was glad to hear that admission, because when an attack is made I prefer that it should be an open attack. And let the House consider what would happen if this Bill became law. The greater part of the University voters would elect to vote where they reside, and there would be very few voters for the University other than those who reside there. That, of course, would lead to a demand from hon. Members opposite for the abolition of University representation. I do not think that hon. Members who attack University representation can have studied the history of their own Party. A great Liberal, John Stuart Mill, thought that the franchise ought to be based as far as possible on education. This University representation is the last vestige which we have of a franchise of that kind, and if hon. Gentlemen opposite seek to abolish it they are doing what they will regret in the future. Further, I do not see how any hon. Member sitting on the Ministerial benches to-day can form an unbiased opinion on this question. The whole of the University representation is on the Opposition side of the House, and knowing that to be so how can hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial benches be in a position to form a fair opinion on it? They run the risk of being charged with voting for their Party, and not on principle. I also take exception to the form of the Bill. The last Bill introduced into the House dealing with this question had a simple provision that no one should vote in more than one place at an election, so that if a man had two votes he might choose down to the very day of the election in which constituency he would vote. This Bill is entirely different in that respect. It compels a man to say before September 1st in which constituency he will vote during the following year. But on September 1st the revision is still going on; and it may well happen that after a voter who has, say, three votes has elected to vote in one of the three constituencies his name may be struck off the register in the constituency which he has selected or he may become disabled from voting in it, and the result would be that he would have no vote at all. Take another point, a man may not know that he has a double vote, and therefore may omit to make his selection in September, or while knowing of his double qualification he may forget to make his selection in time; and in either case the result will be that he will find himself in January nominally with two votes, but actually without a vote at all. I say that is not fair. This Bill is a measure of reform, but of partial and not real reform. If you want to abolish the ownership vote, you should do it directly in a Bill for the purpose, and not seek by a side wind to abolish not only the ownership vote, but also the double occupation vote, and the University vote. If the Government would bring in a fair, all-round measure of reform, we on the Opposition side of the House would gladly support it.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I do not object to the hon. Gentleman referring to the Amendment which I moved to the Second Reading of the Bill introduced by Mr. Shaw-Lefevre in 1892. In some respects it is a disadvantage to have been twenty years in Parliament, for, during such a long period you are pretty sure to have been on both sides on more questions than one. I might plead that when I was a child I spake as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things. However, I do not take that attitude. I do not say that there is no connection between one man one vote and one man one value. I say there is a connection, and I would like to see both questions dealt with in one Bill. But we live and learn, and one thing I have learned in the House of Commons is that we cannot get everything at once. We must be content to move slowly. The question of plural voting is not a burning one in the ordinary type of Irish constituency. In the south and west of Ireland there is very little chance of a man having the privilege of exercising his vote at all. But the case is different in ten or twelve constituencies in Ulster. Three years ago I went to conduct an election in South Antrim. It was a bitter contest, and we found there on the register 1,400 freeholders and leaseholders of the city of Belfast who voted in their different divisions in Belfast, and also in South Antrim, although they had no connection whatever with South Antrim. That was bad enough; but we found another thing which was worse—that the freeholder was immortal. We found that out of 1,400 names on the register, 600 had been dead, many of them for thirty years, and that, in other cases, the qualification had long since ceased to exist. In fact it was the interest of nobody to revise the register, and therefore it contained the names of 1,400 freeholders and leaseholders who were altogether unconnected with the constituency. We were beaten largely by these plural votes, and I say that that is an abominable state of things of which we have a right to complain. The same thing might be said in regard to North Derry and South Dublin where large numbers of people vote at an election who have had no property connection whatever with these constituencies. I tell the hon. Member for Surrey that I still retain the conviction I had in 1892. I think it would be fairer to deal with this question as a whole; to give one man one vote, and also get something like one man one value. But, if we do not get these reforms by degrees we will never get them at all. I consider that it is monstrous that men who are practically foreigners—I do not use the word in an invidious sense—should be allowed to come into a constituency and defeat the wishes and intentions of the resident voters. Although not an English Member, I have some title to speak in regard to this question as it affects English constituences. I have seen all the machinery at work. There was scarcely an election I did not attend in the old days between 1886 and 1895, and I feel bound to say that there was scarcely an election which was not largely influenced and controlled by out-voters coming from hundreds of miles away to defeat the intentions of the resident voters in the locality. Therefore, though I cannot get all I could wish, that is no reason why I should not support the present Bill.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lincolnshire, Horncastle): I am one of those who hold the old-fashioned idea that if a man has a property in a division he ought to have a vote for it. These "aliens" are to be disfranchised because the greater number of them happen to hold Tory principles! This Bill has been introduced in order that hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial side of the House may gain a Party advantage from it. I admit that there are glaring anomalies in the representation of this country which ought to be swept away. I had placed in my hands the other day a most excellent pamphlet which I hope hon. Gentlemen on the Government Benches will study. I believe it is a pamphlet issued by the Proportional Representation Society. In that pamphlet I find that on the total vote in Warwickshire the Conservatives have a majority of something like 400, and yet the county is at the present time represented by three Liberals, and only one Conservative. In Salford there is a considerable minority of the electors who have no representation. Then, again, take the case of Wales. At the present moment there is not a single Conservative Member returned from the whole of Wales, while there are some 90,000 Conservative voters there. Surely, if we come to consider the question of rectifying what are called the anomalies of our electoral system on the other side all these anomalies should also be looked into as a matter of common justice. We hear a great deal about property and privilege, but I do not see how the privilege comes in if you have not a right to vote in regard to the principle upon which you are to be taxed. On what grounds of common sense is not the large owner or occupier of lands in a division of a county and who pays a large amount of wages there not to have a vote? It seems to me that if this Bill is agreed to we shall depart from the old sound principle of representation and taxation going together. This principle of plural voting is the last vestige of that great old principle and this Bill is not founded upon justice. It is brought in in order to gain a little advantage, and until the whole question is dealt with a great injustice will be inflicted upon electors.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid): The debate shows that hon. Members opposite are rather chary in dealing with the merits of this question, as the hon. Gentleman who first spoke moved an Amendment of a dilatory nature, but in the course of the evening the spirits of hon. Members have risen and the noble Lord and others have appealed to the principles which were relied upon by their predecessors in opposing the Reform Bill of 1832. The hon. Member for Basingstoke came out as the Champion of the plural voter. The hon. Member is a young Member of the House. He failed at the general election, and if there had not been a number of out voters in the Basingstoke Division he would not be here to-day. What does it matter whether or not we are going to deal with the whole question of electoral reform? It is no use bandying accusations across the floor of the House. The point to be considered is whether the proposal is right and the time opportune. Of course it is a Party measure. Nobody is frightened by saying that. All the great Reform Bills have been Party measures. Does anyone assert that it is right that one man shall have four, five, six, ten, or twenty votes? [OPPOSITION cries of "Yes."] Then you ought to give the votes to the property, proportionally, not to the population, but to the acreage. If we could base representation upon real intelligence, I should be prepared to do away with all reference to property in dealing with electoral matters. When I say intelligence, I do not mean, in the ordinary sense of the term, education. It is quite true there is a great deal of education in a university, but the intelligence of the universities is not on a par with the education. Most certainly the political intelligence of the universities is not to be measured by the degree of education in literature, mathematics, or classics, possessed by the graduates. There are nine seats in the House of Commons occupied by representatives of universities. If the same basis of representation were applied throughout our electoral system, we should have had the people's food taxed, we should have had the Education Act of 1902 made more stringent, and we should have had all the things carried which the Liberal party have been opposing for fifteen years past. Why? Because every representative of the universities is a Conservative. We have, therefore, the solid representation of what is called intelligence and education opposed to what everybody will admit to be right. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] Do hon. Members opposite think I am entitled to seven votes? [AN HON. MEMBER: No.] As a matter of fact, I have them. I have a vote in the city, and I voted with a great deal of pleasure against the junior Member for that constituency. I have a vote in the Strand, where I am like a voice crying in the wilderness, and I also have votes for West Carmarthen, East Carmarthen, Gower, and Breconshire, and I am sometimes called upon when I have opposition in my own constituency to persuade myself that I am the proper person to vote for there. I think it is absolutely wrong that I should have seven votes, and I am quite willing to give them up, but not until they are given up all round. I regard myself as a political sinner whenever I exercise my seven votes, but it has to be done in order to balance what is done on the other side. It will not do to talk about redistribution. That is a matter not for a young Parliament in its early and vigorous days. That is a matter which the late Government left to its sixth session, and the House knows what kind of proposals were then made. I am glad the Government have produced this Bill so early in the session. It has been promised for many years, and the Government have shown in this as in other matters that, while their supporters give them the driving power, they are prepared to give effect to the promises made to the country.

*LORD HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): The principle underlying this Plural Voting Bill seems to me to be somewhat misunderstood. The main thing which underlies our whole electoral system is a man's right to vote in different electoral localities in which he has an interest, so that his vote will be in favour of the interest of the locality. If you take away the representation of different localities you will do them great injustice. Plural voting does not seem to me to be such an anomaly as has been described, and I think that a man should be considered as one individual in each place in which he has rights. The hon. Member for Mid. Glamorganshire does not pretend that his interests in the City of London are the same as they are in Breconshire. He may be a large landowner in Breconshire, but in London he may be interested in other matters, say manufactures, though I admit I am raising a very supposititious case. Why should he not have a voice in the representation of Brecknockshire, where he has many interests, as well as in the City of London, where his interests also are? With a Government like that with which we are at present favoured, which has so many schemes on hand of one kind or another affecting every kind of property, it seems to me to be very absurd for them to say that a man who may have two different kinds of interests in two entirely different localities should not have an opportunity of doing his best by his vote to defend his interests in both localities whenever they may be attacked. The right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works in his profound and literary speech delivered early this afternoon seemed to think it would be quite easy to provide that a man should vote only in the district in which he nominally resided. But what about a man who has two houses in each of which he lives for a certain portion of the year? Many men are fortunate enough to possess two houses, one perhaps in London during one half of the year when they are engaged in their business pursuits and another in the country in which they live when engaged in more pleasurable occupations. I think it would be grossly unfair if such men were not allowed to record their votes in the interest of both residences. I should like to say, as I hope in the future to be a M.A. myself, that I strongly resent the attack that has been made on both the education and the intelligence of the Universities. It seems to me that if there is one constituency that ought to be preserved among the other constituencies of the country it is the University constituency. Because whatever the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works may say as to payment of fees, that constituency is based on the principle of education and intelligence, and no man can obtain that qualification simply by paying for it. It is what I may call a *suggestio falsi* to say it is based on payment of fees and not upon intelligence. I believe the idea of a local qualification coming from intelligence and not from property hails from China, but that is no necessary reason why the small amount of qualification in existence in this country upon that basis should be done away with, and that from those who have attained the degree of B.A., which contains that of M.A. to a limited extent, should be swept away all qualification for intelligence. I hope that the injustice of that proposal will be admitted by hon. Members opposite who admit that this is a Party measure. I do not know that it is necessarily safe to assume that all these outvoters, these plural voters, are Conservative, but I think it is quite safe to assume that they will be Conservative at the time of the next general election. I think, therefore, we should congratulate the Government on their foresight in bringing in a Bill which will be so much of an advantage to them at the next election.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): As the representative of the one constituency in Wales which the Conservatives hoped to retain, I was much affected by the remarks that fell from the noble Lord the Member for the Horncastle Division. I am, however, very glad I was sent here to vote for this Bill in spite of the fact that it robs me of a plural vote, which I never exercised. That, however, I must own, was not so much due to the fact that I abstained from voting on principle, but more for the reason that I was out of England. My point is this, that I appeal to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill to include another class of electors, I mean the freemen of ancient boroughs. In the ancient and distinguished borough of Montgomery there are "freemen" who exercise the franchise as such. In some cases they do not live there, and have no interests there, and they may not be plural voters, having a vote elsewhere in all cases. They attain this franchise when they attain the age of twenty-one and come over at the time of an election, chiefly, I believe, to vote against the Liberal candidate. Montgomery is a small district which in the last election polled 90 per cent. of its votes. It is very evident that under such circumstances as these to bring over fifty, or sixty freemen to exercise this ancient, picturesque, but absolutely unjustifiable, franchise would be sufficient to elect a candidate for the district who may not represent the opinions of the majority of the electors. It is only natural that those who exercise their right to vote under some ancient privilege of this sort should support the Party in favour of such privileges, and I do think that upon the very first occasion that offers these freemen should be deprived of this vote for which, by common consent, there is not at the present time any justification whatever, no matter which side they may favour in the ballot box.

*MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I should like to say a word or two in support of this Bill, particularly with regard to one thing that it does not deal with and in reference to which I should like, if I could, to persuade the right hon. Gentleman to make some change, namely, the law of registration. The qualifications and the registration laws generally, instead of being used to make a perfect register of qualified citizens, are used for the purpose of keeping off, rather than otherwise, those entitled to vote. I think three months residence is quite enough to qualify a man for a vote at a Parliamentary election. I know that it is said it would be almost impossible to make a correct register in three months. But I have made inquiries in districts where compounding of rates does not occur, so far as the question of paying the rates is concerned, and I have discovered that the rate collector at the end of the quarter does not miss any one who is entitled to pay. If there is such automatic certainty for finding men you want to get something out of, there ought to be equal automatic security for his being placed upon the Parliamentary register. One hon. Gentleman who spoke from above the gangway suggested that it would be possible for the hon. and learned Member for Mid-Glamorgan to use his votes, if he transposed his identity in every place. In one he might vote as a householder, and in another as a mechanic, and in another as a lawyer, and in that way it would be perfectly legal and just and meet all difficulties. I do not think that argument deals with the objections in any way. I think we shall never get a proper permanent solution in this country until suffrage rights are based on the manhood and womanhood principle. I think that is the only qualification that will be recognised in the future, and I think this system of duplicate votes is not fair in any sense of the word. It has been suggested this afternoon that the reason plural votes are given is that a man possesses property, that property pays the taxes, and that taxation and representation go together; that it is only those who have property who have a stake in the country; and that the amount of a man's property decides the amount of the stake he has in the country. I deny any such proposition. When you take the facts which affect the welfare of the working population of this country; how violent changes in the conditions of trade may affect the wealth and prosperity of this country and destroy the opportunity of the working people to get a living; when you consider the useful labour they perform and how much their interest is bound up in the continued prosperity of the country; is not their stake as considerable as that of any man with great possessions? I repudiate entirely the contrary suggestion. I think no man should be entitled to more than one vote under any circumstances. I do not admit the right of any man to give two votes as against his neighbour's one. It is suggested that property gives some special qualification, which really does not exist. It is absurd to calculate the right of a man to manage the country's affairs by his wealth and possessions, as is done at the present time. The hon. Member for South Tyrone said it took him twenty years to discover that if you wanted in this House to get everything you asked for, and accepted nothing until you could get all, you got nothing at all. It has not taken me twenty weeks to make that discovery. And although I want adult suffrage, and, like the Pears' soap baby, shall not be happy till I get it, still I am content to accept this Bill as an instalment, if not of the abolition of the property qualification, at least of the abolition of the plural vote and as a step in the right direction. Therefore, I support this Bill.

MR. STAVELEY HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): It seems to me that hon. Gentlemen opposite and below the gangway argue this question entirely from a Party standpoint. They desire equality, and say that this measure is an equitable one, but I do not hear one word as to giving votes to Peers who are at present disfranchised, and surely if this is to secure equality, all should have votes. Is it not possible that there may be many of the electorate who are not so much concerned with a Party majority as with that which may be to their advantage in their own trade or profession? And is it not quite conceivable that someone, for instance, may have a large business concern in Manchester and an agricultural property somewhere in the Midlands, and, without any inclination to be in any way a politician, it may suit him to have a Liberal member to represent him in Manchester and a Conservative or Unionist to represent him in the agricultural constituency? It may be that he has divided opinions upon the question of fiscal reform, and are you, when he pays rates in both places, going to deprive him of votes in both places? This is an entirely revolutionary proposal, because it is the first time that a Bill dealing with the franchise has dealt with restriction and not with extension. The Government are doing more. They are for the first time putting a stop to existing legal rights. There have been alterations of qualifications, but the existing legal rights have always been maintained. Surely hon. Members opposite will respect the views of one who was the greatest Parliamentarian of his day—I allude to Mr. Gladstone—who, speaking upon the introduction of the Franchise Bill of 1884, said—

> "We do not interfere with rights already legally acquired."

It remains for the Government of 1906 to interfere for the first time with those rights. I should like to call the attention of the House to a speech delivered by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury in 1894 in this House upon a Bill of a similar character introduced by the right hon. Gentleman the member for East Wolverhampton. The hon. Member then sat amongst another Party and was in a position perhaps of greater freedom and less responsibility than now. He then said it was an attempt to dish the Unionist Party, that the cardinal principle of the Gladstonian Liberal Party was that they were the only fit occupants of the Treasury Bench, and that if the constituents did not agree then they must be changed. This Bill is nothing more or less than a combination of terminological inexactitudes. What do you find in it? That the humblest person in the kingdom is not deprived of his vote as a householder, but a person who happens to have two votes has got to undergo what under no franchise has anyone had to undergo before. He has to make a selection, and if that selection is not made, then because he happens to be a possessor of two votes he is disfranchised for a year. That is not fair, and it is not the policy in which we believe. We agree very much more with that which was advocated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, speaking in Scotland last year, said—

> "Common sense, common justice, the uniform practice of seventy years, require that suffrage and seats should be dealt with together, and form part and parcel of any scheme of constitutional reform."

There I leave it with His Majesty's Government. If you are going to ask for some alteration of the franchise, have all your elections on one day, and see how that will work to correct inequality; but do not correct inequalities by creating unfairness and by uprooting those principles and privileges in which we have been brought up, and which we hope will for many years continue.

*MR. DOBSON (Plymouth): The Motion moved from the Front Opposition Bench asks the House to reject this Bill because it is unaccompanied by a scheme to remove the serious anomalies now existing in the distribution of electoral power, and hon. Gentlemen, in speaking on behalf of this Amendment, have over and over again taken it for granted that we on this side are opposed to a redistribution Bill. I beg to disabuse their minds of that opinion. I think I may safely say that the majority of us, in addressing our constituents, declared ourselves not only in favour of the principle of one man one vote, but also in favour of a redistribution Bill. But we believe that this Bill, instead of being antagonistic to a redistribution Bill, is really a help to it. It is an undoubted fact that this Bill will reduce the number of electors in some constituencies. Take the City of London. I think I am right in saying that at least 18,000 or 19,000 of its 20,000 electors have also votes in the home counties. Is it not better that in that case and in numerous other cases in connection with our large towns we should first of all pass this Bill so that we can base a redistribution Bill upon some real and tangible figures? The only argument I have heard in favour of the retention of plural voting is that plural voters represent the rights of property, but few gentlemen, and certainly none on the Opposition Benches, have had a word to say in favour of the rights of manhood. It is contended that the property classes have larger interests at stake. To a certain extent, nominally, perhaps, that is correct, but, proportionately, I venture to say it is not so. I am one of those who contend that the small shopkeeper, the clerk, and the working-man have just as great proportionate interest in the welfare of the country as any millionaire or any of the propertied classes. A bad Government by its meddling and muddling policy—and we have heard of such Governments—can very considerably hurt the trade of the country, and although the propertied classes may suffer, what is that suffering compared to that which is inflicted on the working classes? But I contend that the present system of representation is both illogical and unfair. We hear a great deal about the rights of property to be represented, but if a man owns £1,000,000 in Consols, he does not thereby possess a property qualification, though surely he has as great a stake in the country as a man who invests £40 in a piece of land. A man may have vast property in one county, like the Duke of Westminster, who may be worth millions of pounds, but he can only have one vote upon it. I repeat that the position of property qualification is altogether illogical. Then consider what privileges are conferred on property for getting a vote. The unfortunate occupier has to wait two and a half years before he can be put upon the register. Do you treat the property owner in this fashion? No; a six months' qualification is considered good enough for him. But although it is difficult for the residential voter to get upon the register, it is easy enough for him to be taken off. Let him once remove from his house and his name is immediately struck off the rate book and the voters' list. How different it is with the property owner. He finds it very easy to get on the register, and it is very difficult for anybody to get him off. The right hon. baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean has referred to the difficulty of ascertaining the qualifications of freeholders, but I do not think it would be such a difficult task if you treated the owner of property in the same way as you treat the lodgers, and compelled him to come up every year and make a declaration. I think this provision ought to be applied to property owners as well as to lodgers. In 1879 I was the registration agent for the old division of East Surrey, and I was struck with the large number of property owners, many of whom appeared to have been on the list for thirty or forty years at least. It appeared to me that probably the vast majority of them had parted with their property qualification, and I sent out a circular to every one of those out-voters without making it known to what political Party or association I belonged. I pointed out to them that they were on the ownership list for certain property. The bait took, and I discovered that out of 700 or 800 out-voters nearly 100 replied that they were no longer qualified. In some cases they said they had parted with their property twelve or fifteen years ago, and one replied that the property in question was his father's and he had been dead for twenty-two years. I think it is fair to assume that for every person who took the trouble to write and admit that he was no longer qualified there were four others who saw through the trick and took no notice. Upon that assumption there would be 450 persons on the list who were not entitled to be on it at all. I think this is a good Bill, and I hope and believe that it will pass. I am sure it is a measure acceptable to the country, and one which will promote the principle of political equality; therefore I shall give it my most strenuous support.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): In the course of this debate we have been told that this Bill is a prelude to redistribution. I am sure we are very delighted to hear that the Government is at once tackling this subject with a view to introducing the whole question of redistribution, because it means that they mean to have an appeal to the country very shortly. That would be a delightful thing to see, and no doubt the Government have been induced to make this hasty preparation in view of the reception which their iniquitous Education Bill has met with at the hands of the people of the country within the past few weeks. If that is so, we shall rejoice on the Opposition Benches at the early prospects of meeting our constituents, and reversing the decision which was arrived at by false promises and misrepresentations in January last. It was quite a novelty to hear an hon. Member on the Ministerial Benches weeping on the neck of a poor millionaire, and it was delightful to hear his wail on behalf of a man who owned a million of Consols. I wish to remind that hon. Member that the man with a million pounds invested in Consols can realise them, move them about, and reinvest them, but the man who has £40 invested in freehold land can do nothing of the kind, and if he tried to realise his property he would certainly have to do so at a considerable loss. We have heard a good deal lately about taxation and representation going together in connection with education, and the noble Lord who spoke a moment ago referred to the fact that this Bill was diametrically opposed to that principle. Where can the additional tax and rate-bearing qualification be said to be represented in this Bill? The Under-Secretary for the Colonies said that he never heard a single argument against this principle on its merits. The hon. Member is usually very well read and of very excellent mental power, but has he forgotten that the great Leader of the Party to which for the present at any rate he owns allegiance—I refer to Mr. Gladstone—utterly objected to this principle in 1884 and 1885? I might strengthen even Mr. Gladstone's view by quoting others on the Liberal side. I suppose Liberals will be ready to accept Mr. Edmund Burke as an authority on great Liberal principles. In his "Reflections on the Revolution in France" he says—

> "Nothing is a due and adequate representation of a State that does not represent its ability as well as its property. But as ability is a vigorous and active principle, and as property is sluggish and inert and timid, it can never be safe from the invasions of ability, unless it be out of all proportion predominant in the representation. It must be represented, too, in great masses of accumulation or it is not rightly protected. The characteristic essence of property, formed out of the combined principles of its acquisition and conservation, is to be unequal.
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> "The great masses therefore which excite envy, and tempt rapacity, must be put out of the possibility of danger. Then they form a natural rampart about the lesser properties in all their gradations.
>
> "The same quantity of property which is by the natural course of things divided among many, has not the same operation. Its defensive power is weakened as it is diffused. In this diffusion each man's portion is less than what, in the eagerness of his desires, he may flatter himself to obtain by dissipating the accumulations of others.
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> "The plunder of the few would indeed give but a share inconceivably small in the distribution of the many. But the many are not capable of making this calculation, and those who lead them to rapine never intend this distribution.
>
> "The power of perpetuating our property in our families is one of the most valuable and interesting circumstances belonging to it as that which tends the most to the perpetuation of society itself. It makes our weakness subservient to our virtue; it grafts benevolence even upon avarice.
>
> "The possessors of family wealth and the distinction which attends hereditary possession are the natural securities in this transaction. With us the House of Peers is formed on this principle. The House of Commons, too, though not necessarily, yet in fact is always so composed—in the far greater part. Let those large proprietors be what they will, and they have the chance of being among the best—

they are at the very worst the ballast in the vessel of the commonwealth.

"It is said that 24,000,000 ought to prevail over 200,000. True if the constitution of a kingdom be a problem of arithmetic. This sort of discourse does well enough with the lamp-post for its second; to men who may reason calmly it is ridiculous.

"The will of the many and their interest must very often differ, and great will be the difference when they make an evil choice."

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

MERSEY RAILWAY BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER). WIRRAL RAILWAY [EXTENSION OF TIME] BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow, at a quarter-past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. EMMOTT, Deputy-Speaker, in the Chair.]

PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Postponed Proceeding on Amendment to Question [14th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time," resumed.

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. CARLILE: I quote now Mr. Macaulay when speaking on the People's Charter on 2nd May, 1842—

"My firm conviction is that in our country universal suffrage is incompatible, not with this or that form of government but with all forms of government, and with everything for the sake of which forms of government exist; that it is incompatible with property and that it is consequently incompatible with civilisation. It is not necessary for me in this place to go through the arguments which prove beyond dispute that on security of property civilisation depends; that when property is insecure, no climate, however delicious, no soil, however fertile, no conveniences for trade and navigation, no natural endowments of body or of mind can prevent a nation sinking into barbarism; that where on the other hand men are protected in their enjoyment of what has been created by their industry and laid up by their self-denial, society will advance in arts and in wealth, notwithstanding the sterility of the earth and the inclemency of the air, notwithstanding heavy taxes and destructive wars. Those persons who say that England has been greatly misgoverned, that her legislation is defective, that her wealth has been squandered in unjust and impolitic contests with America and with France, do in fact bear the strongest testimony to the truth of my doctrine. For that our country has made and is making great progress in all that contributes to the material comfort of man is indisputable. If that progress cannot be ascribed to the wisdom of the Government, to what can we ascribe it but to the diligence, the energy, the thrift of individuals, and to what can be ascribed that diligence, that energy, that thrift, except to the security which property has during many generations enjoyed here? Such is the power of this great principle that even in the last war, the most costly war beyond all comparison, that ever was waged in this world, the Government could not lavish wealth so fast as the productive classes created it."

I venture to quote these two authorities, who certainly will appeal to the judgment of hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House. When we find the Under-Secretary for the Colonies stating that on its merits he has never heard any argument against this Bill, he shows that he is not well posted up in the matter. At the present moment the House is on the point of considering, or is in some measure considering, the advisability of instituting a graduated income-tax. It seems an extraordinary thing that, at such a moment, when the minds of hon. Members are concentrated upon such subjects, they should take this opportunity of removing some of the voting power which the payers of taxes possess. It is unfortunate that they should take an opportunity to bring forward such a undertaking. Metaphorically, the Government apparently intend to tie the hands of the better situated voters behind their backs, as they did pictorially with the Chinamen at the time of the general election, for election purposes. The Free Churches cried aloud against the Education Bill of 1902; passive resistance became fashionable. Why? Not because they were taxed without representation, but because they had not equality, or majority in representation. The principles here are entirely inverted. It is all a matter of expediency. It is not on a matter of principle that the Government bring in this measure at the present time. They want to lower the capacity of the electorate. I think Liberals might well be satisfied with the results of last election, but they want a still greater majority than they have now got. They have a majority which has only once been exceeded, but now they want to tie the hands of the voters in order to obtain a still more bloated majority. Why do they desire a larger majority? They know that another opportunity such as the last is not likely to come again. They succeeded in gulling the electorate in January last. No more will the cry of Chinese slavery, no more will "terminological inexactitudes" have the same effect as they had last January. The constituencies will have found out right hon. and hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House. Notwithstanding the fact that they said they had settled the franchise in 1884 for a generation, they now propose to tamper with it in this arbitrary and piecemeal fashion. We have had no assurance from the Government that they contemplate the introduction of a Redistribution Bill and that they are going to the country at a short interval from now. Notwithstanding that, they bring in this Bill dealing with one small subject in connection with the franchise, merely because they believe it will assist their Party interests. They propose, in anticipation of the future, to load the dice, because they realise that their chance of doing what they have done recently is not in the least likely to occur again. The great Liberal principles seem now to be forgotten. Many on the Government Benches are failing to illustrate these principles when they support such a measure as this. I will close with the following lines from Shakespeare—

> "Well, whiles I am a beggar, I will rail,
> And say there is no sin but to be rich;
> And being rich, my virtue then shall be
> To say there is no vice but beggary."

*MR. BILLSON (Staffordshire, N. W.): It would almost seem, from the speeches of some of the hon. Members opposite who have taken part in the debate, that they are under the impression that this is a Bill for the general redistribution of property. This is merely a measure to prevent a few plural voters from going about the country and voting in all sorts of places. I suppose the hon. Gentleman's quotation from Burke refers to the state of England 150 years ago. We have made large progress since then. At that time it seemed reasonable to a great many people that property and not people should be represented. The hon. Member might have gone back a little further and given us the preamble to one of the statutes of Henry VI. Up to that time all voters in counties had been occupiers. The ancestors of the noble Lord opposite were no doubt afraid that their traditional rights would be interfered with and so they passed an Act of Parliament, the preamble of which ran as follows—

> "Elections have of late been made by very great, outrageous and excessive numbers of people who are for the most part people of small substance and no value, and every one of them pretended to have a voice equivalent to the most worthy knights and esquires dwelling in the same county."

Whereupon it was enacted that this wretched business should not go on any longer and that only those should have votes who owned freeholds. One noble Lord talked a great deal about land as paying wages. He forgot that land was not the only kind of property which paid wages; there are large iron works, and other industrial undertakings, employing large numbers of workmen and paying large sums in wages, the owners of which have no vote, simply because they are in the hands of limited companies, although they may be the largest shareholders. It seems to me there is no real opposition to the merits of this Bill at all. Hon. Members opposite say the Government have brought it in for Party purposes. It is much more true to say it is being opposed for Party purposes. The hon. Member for the Horncastle Division secured his seat by 150 votes. There were a considerable number of freeholders in his division. It is not too much to say he is in the House, because the freeholders came in and voted for him, and not because he had the suffrages of a majority of the residents. The Member for Kingswinford is a still more glaring instance. I believe there are 3,000 or 4,000 freeholders who have votes in his constituency, and I feel sure the Member for Kingswinford would not have been returned if those three or four thousand people had not voted. I have the honour to represent a constituency myself in which there are 2,800 outside voters. I do not mean to say they all voted against me. On the contrary, I believe a large number voted for me; but it must come home to the minds of all who thought about the subject that the representation should be that of a district by means of the votes of the people residing in it. I would be glad to see the Bill improved. I would have no owners as such on the register at all. In my constituency, in addition to the 2,800 out-voters there are 1,500 who have votes as owners as well as occupiers, so that there are 4,300 names on the register which ought to be off altogether. That adds enormously to the expense of elections, and of keeping up the registers, as well as to the trouble of carrying on an election. I was agreeably surprised when I read the Bill, and saw the ingenious method which had been adopted of dealing with the matter. I thought it was very satisfactory that the analogy of the county council elections had been followed. Reference has been made to the increased work which will be put upon registration agents. It must be remembered, however, that the freehold owners do not come on the register automatically as occupiers do. Every freeholder has to send in a claim, and it will be no additional trouble to him to state on his claim whether he proposed to star himself for a particular constituency or not. I believe, therefore, the Bill is to be recommended on account of its simplicity, the certainty and ease of its action, and it will bring about a very great improvement. The fact that pluralists have to star themselves for one particular place will tend to make people less eager to obtain votes all over the country. My impression is that those votes will gradually die out, and when the Government bring in its comprehensive Bill, the present difficulty will be removed out of the path, and they will be able to devote themselves with less controversy to the other things which have to be done. As to the question of registration, I have long held that it is a reform which should be effected by common consent of both Parties, and, I believe, if we ever get a comprehensive registration Bill, it will only be after an agreement similar to the compromise which was effected in 1884. I am satisfied with this Bill as far as it goes, and I hope it will be passed into law.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's): The hon. Member for North-West Staffordshire in talking about electoral matters speaks as a past master on that particular question. He seems to think that it is almost a crime that property should be represented on the register, and he told us quite frankly that he thought the whole of the freeholders should be removed from the register, and that nobody but occupiers should be left upon it. Of course I take an entirely different view from the hon. Member's, and I certainly think that all classes and all varieties of interests should be represented on the register which is to elect Members to this House. The right hon. Gentleman who brought in this Bill, and all the supporters of it, have based their arguments on the ground that it is inconsistent with the principle of representative Government that one man should possess a greater statutory electoral power than another. I have always thought that the principle on which representative government was founded was that each class and interest should be represented rather than by securing an exact equality between man and man. I have always thought that the constitutional theory was that each locality should be represented in Parliament, and that therefore it was only right that each man who has an interest in that locality, with a proper qualification, should, independently of any interest elsewhere, be entitled to vote in the choice of the Member for that locality. If you take away his right to vote because he has a qualification elsewhere, you do not only an injustice to the individual, but to the locality in which he has a considerable interest, and in which he has a perfect right to express his preference for one candidate over another. In my opinion each separate constituency should stand by itself, and each person duly qualified in that constituency who pays his rates and taxes should be entitled to a voice in the choice of a representative in

Parliament for that constituency. I cannot see where the difficulty or friction is in the present system, nor can I see any real injustice in it. It is not as if a man had two or more votes in the same contituency; but I cannot see why a man who has his residence or place of business, say, in London, and happens to have either in Scotland or the north of England landed property and possibly a place of business elsewhere, should not be represented by his votes in his separate constituencies. [Ironical cheers.] I know perfectly well that hon. Members on the Ministerial Benches will not agree with me; but the arguments to which I have listened during the debate have not convinced me otherwise. That will be because I hold high Tory views conscientiously. If my right hon. friend was really consistent in his passion for absolute equality, why should he not have gone further and made some provision for equality for each vote, and have seen that each vote had an equal value; or, at all events, for such a rectification of electoral areas as would remove the great anomalies in this respect which now exist? I will only remind the House that half of the 670 Members who have the honour of seats in this House represent 4,500,000 of electors, while the other half only represent 2,500,000, and I think that if we are going to have any great regard for equality, we ought to have regard to the value of the vote which is given, instead of contenting ourselves with saying that there shall be one vote for one man. Now, sir, I want to say one or two words with regard to the drafting of the Bill. I doubt very much whether, notwithstanding what has fallen from so great an authority as the hon. Member for North-West Staffordshire, when we examine it, this is really a workable Bill, and I am sure that the first clause will have even a more disfranchising effect than appears to be intended. Those who have had experience in registration matters, I think, will agree with me, that a very small percentage of the registered voters take the initiative in getting their name put upon the register, and I maintain that even fewer will take the trouble to see that their selection is communicated to the proper officials. The officials can only suspect duplicates where the place of abode is given, and where it is different from the qualification. I do not see how otherwise the overseer, or whoever the official may be, is to find out whether a man is likely to have another qualification than by seeing that the place of abode given is different from the place of qualification. Suppose he acts upon that, he can only deal with non-residents, who may or may not be registered elsewhere. [Cries of "No."] Then you say that they will allow the name to remain on.

*MR. HARCOURT: The registration official will only act upon an intimation from the voter himself, and in the absence of that he will allow the name to remain on the register.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I am obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for that explanation, but I did think from the drafting of the Bill that the registration officials would have the power to interfere with the names in the case of duplicates, but the right hon. Gentleman, I think, means that it will not lie with them at all to discover duplicates, and therefore the point I am going to raise is not necessary, but I am grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for setting me right and am glad to be reassured in that respect. I will only say, however, that if the selection is left to the initiative of the voters, Clause 1 will probably be a dead letter. Clause 2 is even more arbitrary and unjust than the preceding clause. Any or every person applying for a ballot paper can be asked, not whether he has voted elsewhere, but whether he is registered elsewhere, and unless the reply is that he is not so registered, the ballot paper is to be refused. The Acts of Parliament dealing with the various franchises fill a text book, and probably political agents are the only persons in the kingdom who have an exact knowledge of those franchises. Many persons own property in many counties, or are interested in business premises, or have more than one place of residence. Persons are frequently met with who believe that their names are placed on the register for ownership qualifications without any action on their part and that they are registered in respect of trusteeships, or as shareholders in a joint stock company owning land or buildings. There are thousands of persons who may or may not be registered on more than one register, but who believe they are entitled to such registration, and therefore would hesitate to reply in the negative if the question authorised by this clause was put to them, and so would unwittingly and unnecessarily disfranchise themselves. Will it not be sufficient to ask them if they have voted elsewhere?

*MR. HARCOURT: It would obviously not be a proper question to put to a voter whether he has exercised his vote elsewhere, because under the Bill he would only be entitled to exercise his vote once at the place where he is distinctly marked in the register. If he has exercised his vote elsewhere he will be committing a serious offence because *ex hypothesi* he has voted where he should not vote.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I quite agree, but I think a man might be asked whether he has voted, and the question should not be in such a form as to compel him to disfranchise himself. A man may not know whether he is on another register, but he will know whether he has voted. The putting of this additional question will also occupy much time, and during the final hour before the close of the poll many legitimate voters may be excluded from voting in consequence. If an effective measure was desired by the Government, a one clause Bill empowering the presiding officer to put the question to each voter "Have you voted at any other election in the United Kingdom during the present general election?" would have achieved their object. The question as it now stands being with regard to registration only creates doubts, and may have the effect of preventing many persons recording even one vote. There is one other thing which I should like to point out with regard to this Bill, and that is that I think it is the first Government Bill dealing with electoral reform which has restricted the electoral franchise. All previous Government Bills dealing with electoral reform, although an existing franchise may have been restricted, have always had for the main object the extension of the franchise. This Bill is solely a disfranchising Bill, and has for its avowed object the extinction of certain existing franchise rights. However desirable reform may have been, the rights of persons on the registers of voters have always been recognised and maintained. In the Reform Act of 1832, under Section 33, it was provided that every person then having a right to vote for any qualifications other than those enumerated in the Act, should retain such right so long as qualified under the old law. In the Act of 1867, under Section 56, existing rights are safeguarded by an enactment that the new franchises are in addition to, and not in substitution for, any existing franchises. In the Act of 1884, under Section 10, the rights of persons then registered are maintained, the effect being that although the Act prevented more faggot voters being registered, the existing faggot voters could continue to be registered from year to year, and many are still so registered. Under the old Acts, therefore, any person who had a right to vote when they were passed, retained his right until he ceased to be entitled under the old law, but by this Bill you take away an existing right and you refuse to allow an existing voter to continue his qualification during his lifetime. This is a very serious difference. I rose chiefly to ask the Questions which I have put to the right hon. Gentleman and I do not want to prolong the debate. I may say, however, that I differ from the hon. Member for North-West Staffordshire who said that he hoped that this Bill would be carried by a large majority. I cannot share those views, because I look upon this Bill as an attempt to gain a Party advantage. If you are anxious for electoral reform why do you not promote a genuine and comprehensive Bill redressing real grievances? That is the only way in which I think that this question should be dealt with. This, however, is really an attempt to gerrymander the constituencies to suit the needs and necessities of your own Party. If that were not the object I maintain that a large and comprehensive measure would have been brought in dealing with many of the points of which we have heard to-night. Some hon. Members desire to see any alteration of the registration law; others desire to see amendment in regard to redistribution, and others desire other changes in the existing electoral system, and I think that if the Government had really desired to deal with electoral reform in a genuine manner they would have brought forward a measure dealing with all the subjects that I have named.

*Mr. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): I rise in order to associate myself with the speeches which have been already delivered from these Benches. I wish to add my protest against the passing of this measure which will mean the disfranchisement of somewhere about 1,000,000 of the electors of this country. The First Commissioner of Works in his excellent speech early this evening which was only spoiled by one or two gibes in regard to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, which were not in very good taste, spoke of this as a very modest measure, but said he was very sorry that he introduced it under the ten minutes rule. To do so was certainly an insult to the electors whom the right hon. Gentleman desires to disqualify. I will be perfectly frank and will say that but for the freehold vote at the last election I should not have had the honour of sitting in this House. [An Hon. Member: How many of you would?] I quite agree I think there would have been practically no opposition in the House of Commons but for that vote. If the hon. Gentleman thinks that that would be an advantage to the country I cannot agree with him. I cannot see where the necesssity is for the introduction of such a Bill as this. We have heard of innumerable instances in the course of the last few months of mandates given to right hon. Gentlemen opposite at the general election. Was this one of the mandates given on that occasion? Sir, I am sick of those mandates. This is a continuation of the policy that has animated right hon. Gentlemen opposite ever since they came into power—a policy of revenge. We have seen in the Education Bill an attempt to revenge themselves upon the Church of England, and now they are bringing in this Bill in order to revenge themselves on a body of men who they think give their support to the Unionist Party. I think the Government are insolent in their victory. I should like to ask whether they are going to press this measure through its second reading with the serious intention of passing it through the House of Commons this session. I say we have plenty of business before us; we have sufficient contentious measures to last us for a year. I should like to ask the Government if it is their intention to pass all these measures during the present session. [Hear, hear!] Hon. Gentlemen opposite cheer. If they do, then I think we shall be probably sitting here this time next year. If hon. Members opposite look forward to that state of things with pleasurable anticipation I can only say I hope I may be allowed to wish for some holiday. Let me take the business before us. We have the Education Bill which is quite contentious enough for one session, but then beyond that we have the Workmen's Compensation Bill, a Bill upon which the Government have already sustained one or two defeats upstairs, and I suppose that when that measure comes down upon the Report Stage we shall have the opportunity of seeing whether the Government are cowardly in their defeat.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order; the hon. Member must speak to the Motion.

*Mr. STANLEY WILSON: I was trying, Sir, to show that the House had sufficient contentious business before it and that it was not necessary for the Government to introduce another measure of this contentious nature, but I bow to your ruling and will not refer to the Trades Disputes Bill and other great and contentious measures. This Bill is another blow to the landed proprietors of this country. I myself have always failed to understand why a Radical Government should always endeavour to do something to deprive the landowners of what ought to be, what are, their rights. If a man owns lands in the country and pays rates and taxes on those lands I fail to see why he should not have a right to vote in the district in which his land is situated. Such a man is probably extremely well-educated and better qualified to have a say in that district as to what should be done by the Government than even the agricultural labourer intelligent though most of them are, but whose interests do not go beyond the bounds of the particular parish in which he lives. Why, then, should we deprive these men of their votes. For the simple reason that the Government think that they are so intelligent and so well educated that they generally record their votes for the Unionist Party. We all know the various anomalies that exist under our present system, and so much has been spoken upon the question of one vote one value that I do not intend to detain the House by addressing myself to that subject. The late Government intended to bring in a Redistribution Bill, which would have had the effect of removing those anomalies and making the votes throughout the whole country of far more equal value than will be done by the Bill at present before the House. The present Bill includes no scheme for redistribution, and instead of doing away with these anomalies will only make them more glaring than they are at the present time. I believe the scheme as it is laid down in the measure before the House is an unworkable and impossible one, and I think in his speech this afternoon the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean showed the Government that their scheme was unworkable. I have no intention of detaining the House at greater length, but I am told we are weak in numbers and these benches are thin at the present moment, but though we may be weak in numbers I do not think our weakness justified the Under-Secretary for the Colonies on Saturday last in describing us as a "weak and broken-spirited crew." I do not think the Members on these benches are broken-spirited, and I venture to assure the House that if the Government intend to proceed with this measure we intend to oppose it to the utmost extent of our ability and power, as we regard it as a measure for the disfranchisement of a great body of the electors of this country and a gross injustice.

Mr. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I may say that I support this Bill with the greatest possible pleasure as an indication of adult suffrage in all elections. I am somewhat surprised at some of the remarks I have heard to-day on this particular Bill. I thought many of the ideas contained in those arguments had died many years ago. There may be a good deal of truth in what has been said in this respect, that there is a keenness to get this Bill passed because there are several people who have several votes which they give to the other side; and also in the argument that when in office themselves they are not prepared to tackle measures in the same way in which they say they are when out of office. But that has nothing to do with the question of the right or wrong of this particular Bill. Some hon. Members seem to argue that because a man is the owner of land or is the possessor of wealth he is entitled to exercise a right to vote in various parts of the country, but I would like to tell the House—and many a man who is an owner of land or a possessor of wealth does recognise—that there are many cases where, if it were not for the labour expended, they would not be in the possession of wealth, and that many of the poor of this country are poor because of the economic conditions of to-day. I say the poor man has an equal right to representation in this House with any owner of land or the possessor of wealth. ["Hear, hear."] Hon. Members say, "Hear, hear," but while they say "Hear, hear" they claim that one man may have twelve votes in different parts of the country. I say they have no right to exercise so many votes. I say we ought to have our votes to represent the population and not the wealth of the country, and my hon. friends may rest assured that if they think they are going to keep this system in existence many years longer they are very much mistaken. They may die hard, as the hon. Member for Holderness suggested, but they will die. A man who is an owner of land or a possessor of wealth is not going to have any greater right than any other man in this country. Other men may not have wealth, but they own brains, and why should they not exercise the same right as the possessor of wealth? Why should the members of a University of this country exercise the privilege of electing one Member here in London and another Member at Oxford or Cambridge? It is certainly time that such University representation ceased. Some of our friends seem to regret it, but I hope that this Bill will be passed through, if not this session, next session. I am fully in agreement with those Members of the House who think there ought to be some alteration in the registration laws. There is great room for that. When a man desires to exercise a municipal vote to-day he has to say where he desires to exercise the vote, whether he desires to exercise it for his shop or his house, and I see no reason why a man who, simply because he is the son of his father and owns land, should be allowed to record so many votes. I am really surprised that hon. Members should get up and use arguments which might have had weight sixty years ago, during the passing of the great Reform Bill, but which have no relevance to the Bill now before the House. Every man has ability, and he ought to be allowed to exercise the ability he has, so far as the right of voting for this House is concerned.

*CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): With reference first of all to the remarks of the hon. Member for Sunderland, I wish to explain that he appears to labour under a slight misapprehension. I say that those around me who for a number of years past have been in power in this House and in the country have not shown, in my opinion, anything but respect for the vote of the working man. We have never shown any desire but to treat the working classes fairly and squarely. A great number of hon. Members who sit on this side were returned by the votes of the working classes, and we all endeavour to represent those who returned us. I would also point out to Labour Members generally that their conception of the policy of the Members who sit on these benches is equally wrong. Although a man may be wealthy he may wish to open up industries and provide better houses for the working classes. He may desire to assist in commercial enterprises without seeking on every possible occasion to do injury to the working classes because they are working classes. The objection that I wish to urge against the Bill is that it is taking a step which it will be almost impossible, if not quite impossible, ever to reverse. All that Members on this side can do is to enter a protest and show to the country at large the arguments which we believe to be perfectly consistent and right as to the injury that will be done if the Bill passes into law. It is obvious that in many points a grievous injury will be done to certain classes. Take one instance, that of a wealthy capitalist who wants to open up a new industry in Ireland by putting in capital and employing the poor people of the neighbourhood. Supposing he does that in a part of the country where he does not reside, the very workmen that he employs would have votes, whereas the man who had created the industry by his brains, intelligence and money would be the one person not be allowed to vote. ["No."] The hon. Member for South Tyrone says "No." He would not have said that some years ago. The hon. Member has referred to those who were leaseholders and freeholders in a contest in which he took a prominent part in South Antrim some years ago. I am perfectly convinced that the only grievance the hon. Member had against the freeholders and leaseholders in that particular constituency was that they did not vote for his particular nominee. The hon. Member said that foreigners came into the constituencies of South Antrim and North Down and voted where they had no claims whatever. It was the men of Down and Antrim who built up the city of Belfast, and in cases of that sort surely they ought to have a special claim to the privilege of voting in the city they had created, as well as to vote in the respective counties to which they belong. With regard to what fell from the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorgan, that complaints from these benches warmed up as the debate progressed, I hope that the Party to which I belong, although small and insignificant in the eyes of hon. Members opposite, will never be found wanting in the strength of their convictions, or in the power to express them. The hon. Member said one of the arguments in favour of the Bill was that the hon. Member for the Basingstoke Division would never have been returned but for plural voting, and that it showed the anomalies of the present system. I assert on the other hand that if it had not been for these plural voters the Basingstoke Division would not have been properly represented at the present time. The arguments we have adduced on this side are those of common-sense and honesty. There is one other important question which has not been sufficiently touched upon, and that is University representation. I am perfectly certain that since the franchise permitted the return of Members for the various Universities this House has never had men of such light and learning, whatever their political opinions might be. It is one of the gravest blots on the Bill that that system of representation may be interfered with. I desire to recognise genius on whichever side it is shown. It gives me more pleasure to listen to a good speech from the benches opposite when it is made, than to hear one from my own side of the House. This Bill appears to me to be introducing legislative changes of far-reaching effect without any reference to the importance of the questions which are being dealt with. I appeal to all sensible and sane men throughout the country to watch the process which is being gradually inculcated into this House of trying to push on to our shoulders the responsibility for initiating and carrying out and perpetuating legislation directed against hon. Members below the gangway. I have far too much respect for their ability to expect that anything I could say now would change their ideas. I can only hope that the policy adopted by the Government of bowing the knee and giving in upon every question to the Labour Party will increase their admiration of hon. Gentlemen in opposition, and prophesy that our views of fiscal reform will unite them to us when the present Government are no more.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): Some very serious defects in the machinery of this Bill have already been pointed out. I wish to say a few words with regard to the principles of the Bill. I consider that the Bill was first presented to the House in a somewhat improper way. I then asked myself not why it was introduced or what was its object, but what reason the Government were going to give to the House for introducing it. As far as I can gather, the reason given is that it is designed to redress anomalies. I find that it is an exception to the rule which is recognised either in principle or in practice, that every vote should be of equal value. I know that all hon. Members on the Ministerial side do not say that, because a number of them stick at the half-way house, and say that equal voting power should exist for every man who has a vote at present. When you come to consider this principle on its merits, you have to go back to see what was the foundation of the franchise. I have heard various suggestions made upon this point, and I put it that that foundation is not property, but taxation. Taxation has been its foundation through all our constitutional history. "No taxation without representation" has been the cry through all the ages, and now observe that in this Bill you are proposing to institute a system which provides that in certain cases it shall be possible to have taxation without the corresponding opportunity of representation. That is a constitutional innovation which I commend to the attention of hon. Members on the Ministerial side. If they are at all interested in this matter I commend to them also the words of Mr. Gladstone in 1884, from which they will readily understand what are the objections to proposals of this character. When we venture to point out how this principle of equal voting power for all would work in practice we are met with the question which has constantly been raised in this debate, "Why do not right hon. and hon. Gentlemen take steps to redress the greatest anomaly of all and try to secure proportionate representation to the population in various areas." We have not had a satisfactory answer to that question yet. We have been told that it is not the practice of Governments to bring in a Redistribution Bill except on the eve of their death. I do not understand what arguments there are which would lead us to believe that redistribution should always be the swan song of a Government. I understand that this has always been a great Liberal principle, and, if I am right, why do the Government not set a good example and deal with redistribution now? Why do they hesitate on the brink? Why do they make no attempt to remove these flagrant anomalies—anomalies so great that a working man in Romford has a power of voting which is one-seventeenth of the power of a large landowner in Wick Burghs, anomalies which permitted in 1895 all the three Divisions of Salford to return Conservative Members, in spite of the fact that in Salford there was a minority of Conservatives. Then there is the anomaly which permits those who sit on the Opposition Benches to each represent something like an average of 17,000 electors, whereas each hon. Member sitting on the Ministerial side only do duty for about 7,000 electors. These are all flagrant anomalies which the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean recognised as existing. The right hon. Baronet took Wimbledon as an illustration, and said, "Here you have Wimbledon with a large number of voters which is far too many for its proper proportion of representation. If you pass this Bill you will have a diminution of those voters, because a large number will elect not to vote in Wimbledon but somewhere else." Now what would happen supposing they did elect to vote in Wimbledon and similiarly in other divisions around London? The effect will be that the very evil which this Bill professes to remedy will be accentuated in a worse form. You will be turning the City of London into what has been described as "a howling wilderness."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: But they come to Wimbledon mostly from the Metropolitan Surrey parishes, and those are already above the right figure.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: At any rate my argument will apply in part to Wimbledon, and to all those surburban areas which draw City clerks and City merchants. I think the House will see that this is an argument which cuts both ways. The hon. Member for Dumfries Burghs pointed out some anomalies which exist in Edinburgh. That is a place with which I have had some personal acquaintance, and I may say that there are plenty of other anomalies in Scotland if you desire to find them. There are anomalies connected with the burgh residents. When a man changes his residence in a burgh in Scotland he does not lose his vote, but if he changes his residence in a county he does lose his vote. There are at present many anomalies in connection with the franchise, but this Bill does not propose to deal with them. I may point out that a man who holds a lodger vote, or a service vote, may vote at a Parliamentary election, but not at a school board election. The anomalies to which I refer are serious anomalies which have just as great a claim for redress as any other anomalies presented to the House. These are anomalies admitted by all sections in the House, whereas the particular anomaly against which you seek to legislate is one which we do not admit in fact, or one which we hold to be more or less justified. I do put it to right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite that they are dealing with a question which they ought to deal with wholesale and not in a piecemeal fashion. They ought to look at this question, not as partisans, but as citizens. I know the position. It is not a stimulating task for right hon. and hon. Gentlemen. It would be much more profitable for them in the long run to take the other course. I do look with some horror at the introduction into our electoral system of what I can only call the "spoils" system imported from America. I am afraid that the electors who subscribed to their prospectus feel, if I may say so, that there has been a certain amount of inaccuracy. I warn hon. Members that the electors will balk at this manner of going to allotment, and that they will consider this to be not a real reform to redress a genuine grievance, but an attempt to gerrymander the polls in the interests of one particular Party.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I wish to congratulate my hon. friend who has just resumed his seat. I think he has made the best of a very bad case. Some hon. Members argue as though they imagined that no one else had ever thought the question out. I wondered when the hon. Gentleman was speaking whether he thought he was addressing an agricultural audience. How the agricultural labourer with his one vote would cheer the fact that the squire had a right to six votes, and that he was six times better than himself. My friend asked what an anomaly was. Another friend of mine suggested that it is a word you use when you want to swear. The sum and substance of the whole matter is this. It was said by the great leader of a party. "We are not going to be wiped out by this Bill." What about the past when so many had only 7,000 votes, and so many on the other side had 17,000 ? I venture to say that there have been cases in which 2,000 votes have been of as much electoral value as 17,000. Does that show a case for proportional representation ? Surely "one man one vote," is a good thing, but you will say "one man one value." I can understand the difficulty hon. Members have if they remember the number of seats they would have lost but for the support of an enormous number of people who vote in a variety of places. I can imagine that the majority of the Leader of the Opposition would not have been 10,000, if the City of London electors had all voted in their proper constituencies. It is manifestly unfair that they should vote in several places. If they elect to vote in the City, let them use their vote there. Not under any circumstances is one man as good as two men—or, he ought not to be. I have never seen a man who was as good as two. The Representation of the People Act requires amending, and this is an excellent way to begin. I do expect that hon. Members will agree to that, if they are not going to cut their own throats. The Unionists who oppose this Bill say, "We are in a minority; you want to make it less; it is not fair." It is fair, and if you were going to the poll to-morrow you would find it out. [Cries of "No."] Keep on saying "No," but you cannot get the people outside to believe you. I wonder that any man has really the courage to argue in this House that he has a right to votes in proportion to his property. Take the case of two brothers. John has a house rented at £10. William has also a house at the same rent, and he has a donkey in addition to his house. Therefore the donkey is property. Does the donkey bring with it the property qualification ? John says he is as good as his brother. William says, "Nothing of the kind. I have a donkey, and, therefore, I am entitled to two votes."

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): Is the donkey rated ?

MR. CROOKS: I think the hon. and gallant Member should have hesitated before he asked if the donkey is rated. No; but the donkey earns rates. It may be a house or land; it amounts to the same thing. It is a monstrous thing that a handful of men should be able to dictate the policy of this or any Government under any circumstances. [Cheers.] I understand these ironical cheers, but hon. Gentlemen have used the property qualification as a means of getting over-represented in this House, and no such charge can be levelled against the handful of Labour Members. After all, the sole object of the Bill is one which the nation has looked forward to for thirty years, and the Opposition know full well that, whatever their position in the days to come may be, it will be much worse than now.

*MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean pointed out the difficulties that await us in carrying out this Bill. These difficulties arise from the way in which it is proposed to treat the plural voters. What are the facts ? If a man has only one house, he will have no trouble in regard to his vote. If a man happens to have two houses, he will in future have only one vote and he will only have that vote by taking further steps to protect his right to exercise it. That entails an obligation on the man with two houses which is not laid on the man with one house. That is an onus which we on this side do not think should be cast on the man who has two houses. The average voter does nothing whatever to secure his vote. The overseers prepare the lists, and it is more than probable that, if the ordinary householder had to take the initiative, a quarter or half of them would lose their votes. But the owner of two properties has, in the month of August, to declare in respect of which property he will claim his vote, and if, by any chance, he fails to do so, then he will lose his vote altogether. There is another difficulty. The bigger houses, say in Epsom, are occupied by men whose businesses are in London. These gentlemen have, at present, a vote both in London and in Epsom. But if this Bill becomes law they will have to relinquish one of these votes. If they decide to retain their vote for the City of London they will lose their vote for Epsom, and it would be a bad day for England if the principal residents took no further interest in the politics of the places they lived in because they had no votes. And equally in this case it would be a bad thing for the City of London if those who have their business there, and have done so much to build up its credit and its greatness, decided to retain their votes in respect of their houses at Epsom. The idea that the electors of London, of all places in the world, should be, not the representatives of those great firms which carry on their operations there, but the housekeepers, the attendants, and porters who sleep in the City, is one which ought not seriously to be entertained by that House. This is a grave difficulty which is certain to arise, and I hope some hon. Member opposite will advise what course he should take in the dilemma in which he will find himself under this Bill. Is he to give up his right to vote in the City of London in favour of voting in the place in which he lives, or is he to give up the right to vote in the place where he has his house in favour of his vote in the City of London? I think the Government might, when they consider the difficulties I have mentioned, allow this matter to stand over until they find it convenient to bring forward a Redistribution Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): My hon. friend who has just sat down put a problem to the House on which he asked for assistance to find a solution. His problem was this—If a man who has a house at Epsom or in the neighbourhood of London from which he gets a vote, and if he has also a business in the City of London from which he gets a vote, which constituency should he select as his favourite in the improbable event of this Bill becoming law? I have no doubt myself as to the answer which ought to be given. It seems to me perfectly clear, and I wonder my hon. friend felt any doubt on the subject. The vote which he should retain is the vote for the City of London. I do not propose to discuss the City of London, having some personal interest in it myself, especially in connection with this Bill. The reasons on which I oppose this Bill—and I am sure the reasons on which my hon. and learned colleague would oppose it—are quite irrespective of the special claims of the City of London, and are based on broader issues which have their roots deep in the constitution of this country. But before I come to that consideration, may I say one word on a speech which has received no reply, and on which hardly any comments have been made? I mean the speech of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean. The right hon. Gentleman, while strongly in favour of the principles of the Bill, as we should all anticipate, explained that in his opinion the Bill, as it was at present drafted, or indeed any Bill on the lines of this proposal, would prove unworkable and costly in practice. I do not propose to resurvey or to restate the arguments to which no reply has even been attempted from the Benches opposite. I only remind the House that, while I should concur with the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that these are matters to be dealt with in Committee, the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean speaks with peculiar authority on these questions of registration; and, while strongly advocating, and indeed supporting with passion, the general principle of the Bill and the object at which it aims, he thinks the Bill as drafted is not merely in its details, but in its very essence based on lines which make it unworkable in practice. That is a consideration which the House would do well to consider before they commit themselves to employ Parliamentary time in an attempt to pass this measure into law. I do not propose to deal with the details to-night. I propose merely to touch on the broad principle which I conceive underlies the Measure as a whole, and which animated the Government in bringing it forward. The right hon. Gentleman who has made almost his maiden efforts in this House in bringing forward a Bill of first-class importance has convinced all his friends—among whom I hope I may be counted as one—that he is perfectly capable of undertaking this, or even a more onerous, task. If he will allow me one criticism of his method of treatment, I think that the very liveliness with which he presented his subject to the House has rather disguised, perhaps even from himself, certainly from his audience, the serious character of the proposals he has made and their wide-reaching effect. Supposing a Minister of the Crown had come forward and had suggested that university representation in England, Scotland, and Ireland should be put an end to. He would have, of course, received a great measure of support from hon. members opposite who have never liked that form of representation. But every one would have admitted that it was an immense change in the whole view of our Parliamentary system, because University representation is of very old standing. Every one would have felt bound to consider what class of men it was, what element of electoral distinction Universities have added to this House, how far our debates have from time to time been raised by the representatives of the Universities, and what was the comparative loss or gain to the community by the destruction of our Universities as constituent bodies. That element would have been vehemently fought had it been brought forward by itself, to say nothing of a debate on the Second Reading of a measure where it is wrapped up, where it is lost, as it were, in the general provisions of the Bill, and has called forth hardly a transient reference. The right hon. Gentleman himself, I think, seemed to be under the impression, or, at all events, desired to convey to the House the impression, that University representation would not be touched by this measure. But that is not really the case. If you pass this Bill it is, of course, impossible to say how many Masters of Arts of Oxford and Cambridge, of Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrews, and Aberdeen would prefer their votes for the University to the vote for their places of residence. Though no one can make that forecast, which it is beyond the power of any prophet to state with any approach to accuracy, who can doubt that the character of the University seats would be entirely destroyed? They would be mere wrecks of their historic selves if the Bill now before us is passed. I do not attempt to argue University representation to-night; but may I say that those who vote for this Bill are consciously or unconsciously going to destroy, without discussion, without argument, without full public consideration, one of the most dignified and most interesting elements in our composite electoral system? That alone should cause the House to pause before it starts on this movement for what, I suppose, the right hon. Gentleman would call reform. But I venture to suggest that it is worthy the subject and worthy the House, if University representation is to be abolished, that the proposition should come before us in its integrity, in a clear and specific form, and not wrapped up and beclouded in a Bill which simply deals with the question of one man one vote. I do not propose to say anything more on the question of the Universities. I will pass by a question that excites the interest of many members of this House who appear to think that this is a Bill to leave the agricultural labourer with one vote and to prevent the squires having more than one. As the right hon. baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean has adequately shown, this is not a question of the big landlord against the agricultural labourer, or of the big landlord against the small landlord. It really is in the main a question of the business men outside our great business centres, and in many cases working men. I do do not say in many constituencies, but I do say in many cases. I have been given authentic information by a friend of mine, who informs me that he himself has many voters—he is a country member—who are working men who have bought freehold property in the town where they work. Is that an absurd proposition ? Is that untrue, or, if true, laughable ? I know it is true, and I do not think it is ludicrous. But the main question I quite admit is, after all, that of the business man who lives outside the place where his business is carried on. And I would venture respectfully to suggest to the House that it is folly, on the ground of a mere symmetrical improvement in your electoral system, to say that a man whose interests are in Manchester, or Liverpool, or London, or any other great business centre you may choose to name, and whose residence is outside, should be compelled to choose between the two places in which his interests are so immediate and living. The real fact is, Sir, that we shall each of us vote on this question according to the point of view from which we approach it. I confess I approach it from the historic point of view. Our system of representation has grown up on lines well known to the Members of this House. It is essentially based upon local representation, which has for its essential and clear note that this House shall consist of men who represent localities and local groups. That is the foundation of the greatest and freest institution in the world. I think on this foundation we should continue to live ; I do not think you can improve upon it. You may modify, and you ought to modify, from time to time the structure you build on this foundation, because as a great community like ours grows the actual demarcation of constituencies requires to be changed. You find the population in one place multiply exceedingly ; you find the population in another place stationary or even diminishing. That will require, and must require, from time to time Redistribution Bills, such as have always accompanied Reform Bills in the past, and such as you would have to pass if manhood suffrage became the law of the land to-morrow. I say what we have to build upon, as regards the franchise part of our electoral system, is the historic basis on which every stateman so far has built, and which had no more passionate or consistent admirer than Mr. Gladstone, who himself, I suppose, had a hand in more Reform Bills, one way or the other, than any statesman who ever lived, except, perhaps, Lord John Russell. If you reject this historic foundation, what are you going to put in its place? I heard a speech from an hon. Member below the gangway who spoke before dinner, and he seemed to think it was an obvious axiomatic principle of politics that every individual male over twenty-one in the community should have a vote, and that no man should have more than one vote. And, I presume, every man's vote should be of equal value. That is approaching the question, not from the historical side, which I confess commends itself to me as it has commended itself, I believe, to every eminent politician—I am not claiming eminence—who has had to produce a Reform Bill in this House; it is approaching it from the purely theoretical aspect. If you are to be theoretical, in Heaven's name let your theories be consistent, logical, and carried out to their extreme issue. Is this logical; is it carried out to its extreme issue? Even from the speculative point of view, which I repudiate, but which commends itself so greatly to the majority of the House, has it the semblance of merit? In the first place, why is this suffrage to be confined to males over twenty-one? Why not females? I speak, of course, only for myself; but I can assure the House that if we are going to deal with our suffrage system upon these theoretical lines I certainly should not so belie the obvious logic of the situation as to refuse my assent to female suffrage as well as to male suffrage. I perfectly understand those who say the British Constitution has grown up on this local representation and property representation with all its variety, which has been no unhealthy element in our public and political life. But if that is to be swept away, if you are going to consider the rights of humanity in the abstract, then humanity includes females as well as males. It is perfect folly to ask this House to accept as a logical and symmetrical solution of this suffrage question a principle which is to exclude more than half the adult population of these islands. I do not know what are the views of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill; I rather think he is a violent opponent of woman's suffrage. Then do not let him come to us and say, "In my opinion, every man, from the point of view of the suffrage, is equal because he is a man." "A man's a man for a' that." But a woman's a woman for a' that; and if you are going to force this House to treat the question of suffrage as it was the fashion to treat it in the early days of the French Revolution, then, I say, you must be a little more logical than our French friends, and let us in dealing with the rights of humanity not forget that more than half the British humanity consists of the sex which the right hon. Gentleman does not propose to enfranchise. Now, Sir, there is lastly the question of the equality in the value of votes. A great deal has been made to-night with regard to the redistribution proposals of the late Government. They were based on the view that the anomalies of our existing system had grown to a point at which they required correction; but that it was not either necessary or desirable to aim at the actual symmetry of electoral areas all over the country; and if it is any consolation to hon. Members from Ireland, I would remind them that there was no attempt whatever, and we were reproached for it by some, to reduce the Irish representation to its proper numerical proportions. [" Oh, oh."] Well, that depends on the rules of simple arithmetic, which even Irish ingenuity cannot get over. I say there was no attempt to produce symmetry of electoral areas, but there was a sincere and genuine attempt to remove some of the greatest anomalies that now exist, and I say that is an effort which this House must make before it attempts to touch such questions as those raised by this Bill. At all events, the redistribution problem is consistent with the whole historical traditions of this country. Let us, therefore, deal with it before we alter our whole system, change its spirit, and introduce some speculative axioms with regard to the equality of men, or the equality of women, and the inherent rights of each individual. Let us, at all events, make the historical building conveniently habitable, and then only shall we be able to approach the more difficult problems which the right hon. Gentleman has attempted in a light and airy and graceful spirit to deal with, I think he will find they are far beyond his powers, or the powers of this House, to attempt to solve in isolation. You cannot bring in a Bill obviously animated by partisan spirit. You cannot choose out of all the innumerable difficulties and anomalies which undoubtedly our present system presents to the critical intellect a single anomaly which you think helps you electorally. The thing is too crude, it is too obviously self-seeking, it has behind it too little real feeling. It does away in, I think, the rashest spirit with a very wise provision of the present law which does not divorce the residence of the man of business from the place in which he does his business. The right hon. Gentleman has seized on one particular point, and has ignored other questions which have much more to do with the supposed equality between man and man; and when we examine it we see that it has no historic root in the traditions either of the country or of the Party to which he belongs. What we do see, and the only thing we see, is that this Bill is designed without disguise and without doubt for no other purpose than to strengthen the electoral position of the Party to which he belongs. That is not the spirit in which a great change in the British Constitution should be approached. That is not the spirit which ought to animate a Government which might have been satisfied, I should have supposed, with its recent triumph. The best friend of the right hon. Gentleman, one of the most ardent supporters of the Government, tells the Prime Minister that the principle of the Bill is unworkable. I believe it is unworkable. But quite apart from its impracticability, I object, as we all on this side of the House object, to the spirit in which it is introduced, to the motives which evidently animate the Government, to the utter oblivion shown by the framers of the Bill not merely of the spirit of the Constitution they desire to amend, but even of those speculative principles to which they, in their speeches of to-night have paid so loud but so empty a homage.

The PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has argued against this Bill, but I observed that there were one or two arguments used by his followers which he did not adopt. It is, in truth, a simple, although, I hope, a strong and efficacious, one, of which it may be said with greater truth than it can be said of most subjects discussed in the House, that I do not think that any speech is likely to alter a single vote· Every man who is in favour of plural voting will vote against the Bill and every man who is against plural voting will vote for the Bill. There is, therefore, not much room for argument in the ordinary sense. The right hon. Gentleman said that this Bill is introduced from purely Party motives. Well, that is the easiest thing in the world to say, and the next easiest thing is to reply to it, for you have only to say that it is in a partisan spirit and from partisan motives you oppose the Bill. The one is certainly and actually as true as the other. The right hon. Gentleman says we should proceed by the historical method and have regard to the history of British Parliamentary representation, and up to a certain point I agree, although I am one of those who think, as Molière has expressed it when told of habits founded on those of other days—

> "People of other days were people of other days; we are people of to-day."

It is quite possible that arrangements in our Constitution—if we can so speak of haphazard anomalies that have been introduced — suited the circumstances and conditions of previous days, and yet may not be applicable without gross injustice to our own day. It is said we leave untouched many glaring anomalies. Of course we do; we do not profess to go over the whole range of the electoral system of the country, curing all the defects that require treatment; but we say this of the Bill—that it does not aggravate any anomaly. While it takes away one great anomaly and removes one great grievance and does not aggravate any anomaly of which we can complain, it paves the way for that pet doctrine of one vote one value which is the darling theory of hon. Gentlemen opposite. How can you ascertain the facts on which to frame any scheme of one vote one value when you have these accidental haphazard distributions of voting vower? Now what is the grievance created by this system of plural voting? I take it to be this. We have an elaborate system of registration, and we make it very difficult for a voter to get on the register. That is a remnant of old days when the vote was much more of a trust and less of a right than it is now; when voters were few, and exercised their privilege as trustees for the rest of the nation who had no votes. I do not say we have taken away that character altogether, but we have largely reduced it from what it once was. In those days it was right to see that no unqualified man got himself put upon the register; but now our object ought to be to see that no qualified man is kept off the register. It is for that purpose we go on amending our registration laws. Well, when a man does get the vote and the polling day comes round he goes to the poll, and what does he find? Not his friends and neighbours, not the people who, like himself, are interested in the locality about which they make much ado, but stranger from different parts of the county. What do you see at county elections at which, by some extroardinary arrangement I never could quite comprehend, freeholders in certain large towns dump—to use the elegant language of tariff reformers—themselves down, strangers not familiar with the locality and ignorant to a large extent of its needs and desires, and overbear the votes of those resident in the locality? I say that it is a great grievance, and that it really thwarts and vitiates the object of our representative system. This is a simple Bill, and puts an end to the possibility of this misfortune happening, and it does it in the simplest way without taking any right from a qualified voter. It takes no right from a qualified voter, but it says he shall exercise his right upon one occasion. The right hon. Gentleman says this will be harmful to University representation ; but what a poor opinion he must have of the gratitude and affection of the graduate to his University, if it comes to this, that, having to make a selection, he sacrifices his University vote. I have been restrained from speaking on this subject until this Parliament, for I had a near and dear relative in University representation ; but as he is no longer here, I may say that, excellent as the representation may be, the representatives are returned by men who in former days received more or less education within the walls of the University. The whole thing is an anomaly, and this Bill strikes no blow at University representation, unless there is a feeling among graduates that their votes as such are the least valuable part of the voting power they possess. Then I would say a word or two upon the question of locality being the absolute foundation of our representative system. Is a man having property in a great many divisions to have a sacred inalienable right to vote in as many divisions as he has property in ? Is this your Tory democracy ? All I can say is I think it will be found that this is not the line of progress that will be followed by the great mass of the people of this country. Is it a sacred principle, this of property representation ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say so.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not say that the right hon Gentleman made this the staple of his argument. But what is this right of property if we deal with it historically ? Locality is its essence. Now, the Party opposite introduced a great county government measure some years ago. In the very forefront of that Act it is laid down that there is to be no plural voting, and that is for a county council which is to deal with purely local matters. But are the local matters at one end of a big county always identical with those of the other end of a big county ? Supposing a man has property in two or three parts of a big county. Why should not he, on the theory of hon. Gentlemen opposite, have a plural vote for each part ? The locality was abandoned in that case. The other argument put forward besides the argument of locality was that put forward by the mover of the Amendment, who said a man did not vote as a man, but as a propertied man. I repudiate altogether that theory. If it is a theory which has tradition and historical weight behind it, then the sooner we pass this Bill and get free from that idea the better, because in the future, whatever it may have been in the past, the voting power of this country must be in the voter himself because he is a qualified voter, and not on account of his property. Complaint is made that we have not gone far enough, and fault is found that we ought to have introduced a much more comprehensive, a much more logical, and a much more sweeping measure. It is said we do harm instead of good by dealing with one thing at a time. That is not our view of this question. Here is an undoubted grievance, it is an undoubted anomaly, and, I go further and say, an undoubted absurdity, in our representative system. It can be dealt with by itself—*totus, teres, atque rotundus.* It is a thing by itself which can be dealt with separately, and by this Bill we propose to deal with it separately, so as to remove that anomaly and to place this part of our electoral system upon a rational basis.

Question put.

The House divided —Ayes, 403 ; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 72.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A Acland (Christchurch)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Jir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle ofWight
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devon'rt
Benn, W. (T'wr Hamlets,S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethnell, J. H. (Essex,Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, A. W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Bottomley, Horatio
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H. (St Pancras,N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn. Herbt. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert

Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alexander
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R, C.
Lever, A. Levy (EssexHarwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt, Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M‘Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alfred
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, J. Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickerskill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir Wm. Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset E.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley(Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas

Wilkie, Alexander
Williams J. (Glamorgan)
Willaims, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A (Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord(Norfolk,Mid.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J.(CityLond
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm
Clarke, Sr E. (City London)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt, Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros Harvey
Duncan Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flethcer, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W
Keswick, William
King, Sir H. Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H (Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W. Mitchell(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Forster.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN [SCOTLAND] BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

SALE OF COKE BILL.

Order for resuming adjourned debate on Second Reading [11th May] read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES [EXPENSES].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of an additional Annual Grant to local education authorities, and of the remuneration and expenses of the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of any Act of the present session to make further provision with respect to education in England and Wales (King's recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 15th May, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Poole Corporation Water Bill. Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Monday next.

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [H.L.]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [H.L.]; Crediton Lighting and Power Bill [H.L.]; Thornton Urban District Gas Bill; Rugby Subordinate School Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Carlisle Corporation Bill. Reported, without Amendment.

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with an Amendment.

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

London County Buildings Bill; Peterborough Gas Bill; Southampton Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners.

Sheffield Assay Office Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [H.L.]. House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. [No. 86.]

LONDON SQUARES AND ENCLOSURES BILL. [H.L.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

The Earl of WEMYSS: My Lords, I venture to ask my noble friend to postpone the Second Reading of this Bill, which contains a very dangerous and very important principle. This is a Bill introduced by the London County Council to prohibit or restrict the erection of buildings or structures on certain lands in the Administrative County of London, and for other purposes. I think your Lordships will see that there is a large principle involved, for these things extend throughout the country. So far as I can make out there is no compensation or purchase proposed. I venture to think it would be a dangerous principle to accept this without further consideration, and I suggest that the Bill be postponed for a week.

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES (The Earl of Onslow): My Lords, this Bill is really one with which your Lordships must be very familiar. It was before the House last session, and was thrown out by the Committee of your Lordships' House to whom it was referred. It has been down for Second Reading on several occasions during the present session, and has been postponed from time to time. My noble friend has had ample opportunity of considering it.

The Earl of WEMYSS: I did not know it was down.

The Earl of ONSLOW: I am afraid that is because my noble friend has not looked at the Order Paper. It is essential at this period of the session that we should get on with Bills, and I therefore regret that I cannot fall in with my noble friend's suggestion. I would, however, point out to him that the Second Reading stage of a Bill of this character is not one which it is usual to challenge. There will be other stages of which the noble Earl can take advantage if he desires to offer any opposition.

The Earl of WEMYSS: My noble friend says there will be other opportunities, but my recollection is that the principle of a Bill is agreed to on the Second Reading, and that when a Bill is read a Second Time its principle is passed. I shall certainly avail myself of the further opportunities referred to, but I advise your Lordships in the meantime to look into this far-reaching principle under which a public body takes possession of unbuilt-upon land without compensation and without purchase. I shall call attention to the matter later.

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON No. 1.) BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to order).

[The EARL of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 agreed to.

*LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I have an Amendment in the shape of a new clause after Clause 4. This is a Bill to enable the London County Council to acquire compulsorily land for sites of schools, and, of course, the land is to be acquired under the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act. The Amendment which I propose is a very usual one, and it is that Section 92 of that Act should not apply to this particular case. The section is to the effect that no party shall be required to sell part only of any house or other building or manufactory, if such party be willing to sell the whole thereof. It is found that this proviso in some cases acts injuriously, and it is proposed on this occasion to do away with it. I understand that the Board of Education agree that the section should not apply.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert the following new clause: 'Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 92 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, the council may take such part of the lands, houses, and premises shown on plan No. 6, and distinguished thereon by the Nos. 1 to 21, and of the land, house, and premises shown on plan No. 8, and distinguished thereon by the No. 2, and described in the schedule to this Act, as they may require without being required or compellable to purchase the whole or any greater part of any such lands, houses, and premises. The provisions of this section shall be stated in every notice given thereunder by the Council to sell and convey any premises."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

The Earl of Wemyss.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Before the Question is put, I should like to point out that this Amendment does not appear on the Paper.

*LORD MONKSWELL: It has been down some days. Perhaps I ought to state that the notices to the owners have all been drafted on the assumption that this Amendment will pass.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I do not want to offer any opposition to the Amendment at this stage. But is this the usual course to take in such cases? If it is the usual course there is nothing to be said against it, but if it is not I think it is necessary that your Lordships should have this Amendment before you. I do not know whether noble Lords have seen it. Personally I have not, and I reserve my right, if it is inserted now, to move to omit it at a later stage of the Bill, if necessary.

*LORD MONKSWELL: I shall be very glad to show my noble friend the plan, and he will be able to judge whether the clause is necessary or not.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I understand that the Amendment has been circulated about a fortnight. I do not know whether the noble Lord who has moved it will agree to take it at a later stage of the Bill.

*LORD MONKSWELL: I am entirely in the hands of the House. The Board of Education have seen the Amendment and also the plans on which the whole matter turns. The notices to the owners have been drafted on the assumption that this Amendment would pass. There has been abundant notice of it.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD: The noble Lord says that the notices to the owners have been drafted on the assumption that this Bill will be passed. Is it correct to say that? Have the owners consented? I understand that the Amendment, which I have not seen, enables the county council to take part of a property without taking the whole.

*LORD MONKSWELL: The land proposed to be taken contains houses that have gardens attached to them which, under Clause 92 of the Act of 1845, would have to be taken with the houses, but this land is going to be cleared of houses altogether. The houses are in course of being demolished, and consequently it will shortly become ordinary building land without any gardens, and Clause 92 would not apply.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD: Is it to be cleared of these buildings after the county council have got hold of the land? Have the owners agreed to that course?

*LORD MONKSWELL: Yes, I believe the owners have agreed.

LORD HENEAGE: I think it would be much better that we should have an opportunity of seeing this Amendment and looking into the matter. It is curious that we should be told that notices have been sent out on the presumption that your Lordships would do what you were asked to do. I think we should have some opportunity of saying whether we approve or not.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, I understand that this Amendment has been in the possession of the House for the last fortnight. So far as the Board of Education are concerned I have no direct interest in a matter of this kind. All that we have to do in the selection of sites of this description is to see that the Standing Orders are properly complied with, and that the site in question is suitable for a school. But, of course, all points as to the right or wrong of taking certain land are matters for the House. In this case no petition has been presented against the Bill, and consequently, so far as the Education Board are concerned, we are quite willing to agree to the Amendment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I would like to point out that this Bill has not been circulated to your Lordships.

THE EARL OF CREWE: These Bills never are circulated.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Why is the Amendment circulated if the Bill is not? Perhaps the noble Lord will explain.

*LORD MONKSWELL: When an Amendment is circulated it draws the attention of noble Lords to the Bill, and if they are interested they can go to the Paper Office and get a copy of the Bill.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I prefer to have the Bill sent to me rather than to have to go to the Paper Office for it. The question I ask is, Is this the usual way of proceeding?

*LORD MONKSWELL: Yes.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Has it frequently been done before?

*LORD MONKSWELL: Yes.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD: At the same time it is to be observed that the Department to which we look was absolutely satisfied without this Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I agree with what has fallen from the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council. So far as the Board of Education are concerned, it is not a question into which they are drawn. Judging from the conversation which has taken place on this question, it does seem extraordinary that the Bill has not been circulated, whereas the Amendment has been in the hands of your Lordships during the last fortnight. I would suggest that in the circumstances the Amendment should be deferred until the Report stage, when the Bill will be in the hands of your Lordships.

*LORD MONKSWELL: There is no Report stage. I really do not see the difficulty suggested by the noble Marquess. The noble Marquess has been long enough a Member of this House to know that these Bills are not circulated. Noble Lords get notice that an Amendment is going to be moved in Committee, which is the proper time to move them. I adopted the usual, and, I venture to say, the convenient course of moving the Amendment in the Committee stage, and if noble Lords, notwithstanding the fact that they received notice of the Amendment, did not go to the Paper Office and get a copy of the Bill, I do not see why the Amendment should be put off.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): I think my noble friend has followed the usual course in this matter. I understand that these Bills are never circulated. My noble friend has done all he could to conform with the usual practice in this matter, and I cannot see why the Amendment should be postponed.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: Apart from any question whether or not the noble Lord who complains might have procured a copy of the Bill, surely there is no particular urgency in this matter. There would be no difficulty in postponing the discussion or taking the Amendment on the Third Reading, by which time noble Lords interested could have seen the Bill.

*LORD MONKSWELL: I am entirely in the Hands of the House. If the noble and learned Earl opposite wishes the Amendment to be taken on Third Reading, I have no objection, but I would point out that a discussion of this kind cannot take place on Third Reading.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I think this is a matter which requires a little attention. It is not a mere matter of form. It is one of substance—namely, whether your Lordships in coming to a decision on this clause have really an opportunity of knowing what the clause means. If noble Lords come down and tell your Lordships that, as a matter of fact, not having the text of the Bill in their hands, and therefore not being able to compare the Amendment with the text, it is impossible to judge what the effect of the Amendment is, it seems to me to stand to reason that the obvious course is that the discussion should be postponed until noble Lords have had time to make themselves acquainted with the points at issue. I therefore suggest that the noble Lord should move that the debate be now adjourned.

*LORD MONKSWELL: As noble Lords seem to make a great deal of this matter, and it seems to be the general desire that it should stand over, I beg to move that the Committee stage be adjourned.

Moved, "That the Committee stage stand adjourned."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to, and House resumed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools: Of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Ulcy; Standish; Great Lever; Longgrove; Of teachers in schools at Standish; Great Lever; Longgrove; Of inhabitants of Standish; Longgrove. Read and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND.)

Code of regulations for continuation classes providing further instruction for those who have left school, 1906.

TREATY SERIES No. 5 (1906.)

Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark providing for the settlement by arbitration of certain classes of questions which may arise between the two Governments; signed at London, 25th October, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 4th May, 1906.)

POST OFFICE (TELEGRAMS.)

Indenture supplemental to agreement of 2nd February, 1905 between His Majesty's Postmaster-General and the National Telephone Company Limited.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3585. United States (Texas.)

No. 3586. France (Havre.)

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Order by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 4th May, 1906, providing for the early closing of shops in the burgh of Airdrie. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill. Brought from the Commons; and read 1ª, and to be printed. (No. 85.)

Notice of Accidents Bill. Order for Second Reading on Monday next discharged.

Life Insurance Companies. The Lord Grimthorpe discharged from serving on the Select Committee, and the Lord Wolverton added to the Committee in his place.

Conveyancing Bill [H.L.]; Settled Land Bill [H.L.]; Married Women's Property Bill [H.L.]. The Lords following were named of the Select Committee, viz.:—

E. Halsbury,	L. Stanley of Alderley,
V. Knutsford,	L. Macnaghten,
V. Selby,	L. Davey.

The Committee to meet on Monday next, at Twelve o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, it will, I am sure, be generally admitted that it is desirable as far as possible to have one law, at any rate for the United Kingdom, if not for the Empire. The Bills of Exchange Act did something to assimilate the laws of England and Scotland as regards Bills of Exchange, but so far as the procedure on unpaid Bills of Exchange is concerned, they are still very different. The Scottish people are, I understand, quite satisfied with their system, and would resist any change. In England the contrary is the case. We consider the Scottish law preferable to our own, and I have brought in this Bill at the request of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, which comprises practically all the Chambers. It is also supported by the bankers, and I understand the Irish banks will also welcome it. Those who have had experience of both systems seem to be unanimous in desiring the change. The Scottish system is simpler, more expeditious, less expensive, and there is one other difference which is still more important. In England and Ireland the liability on bills is sometimes disputed, not because there is any real defence, but simply to gain time, in which perhaps property may be secreted or made away with. Under the Scottish law, in such circumstances security has to be given. This removes the great temptation to dilatory proceedings, which, as a matter of fact, are so rare as to be almost unknown. The Scottish system which we desire to adopt was introduced as long ago as 1681. At first it was confined to foreign bills, but was found so useful to merchants that in 1696 it was extended to inland bills, and subsequently to promissory notes. We now desire to extend it to England and Ireland, which, moreover, will have the collateral and additional advantage of assimilating and co-ordinating the law of the three kingdoms. I trust your Lordships will grant a Second Reading to the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Avebury.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, I hope my noble friend will be content to allow this Motion to stand over for a short time to allow an opportunity for conference between himself and those who agree with him and representatives of His Majesty's Government. The Bill is intended to assimilate the law of England and Ireland to that of Scotland. That would not necessarily give rise to any objection, but there are points where I foresee difficulties may arise.

LORD HEMPHILL, My Lords, as I come from Ireland perhaps your Lordships will excuse my saying a few words on this Bill. The Bill seems to have a very extensive operation, and I am not aware that there has been any demand for the proposed change on the part of anybody in Ireland, either the bankers or the Chambers of Commerce. If I am wrong in that the noble Lord will correct me. The circumstances in Ireland are somewhat different from those in England and Scotland, and though I approve very much of the general argument that it is desirable to assimilate as far as possible the laws of the three countries and should be glad to see that universally adopted, still, in this particular case I would not like to make a beginning. In the remote parts of Ireland there is a very numerous class of moneylenders in a small way who are known, in the language of the country, as "gombeen" men, and the effect of this Bill would be to enable them to take execution against debtors suddenly and without giving them ample opportunity of raising their defence. The Bill enables a protest bill or a promissory note, no matter how small, to be registered, and on that registration execution to be issued, and the consequence is that the unfortunate debtor who, in the stress of circumstances, may have agreed to pay a most usurious rate of interest, will be sold up before he knows anything about it. As it is there is a very summary method in Ireland as well as in England in the Supreme Court of enforcing bills of exchange unless there is some good defence. But under this Bill everything would depend upon an affidavit being made after the mischief had been done. On the whole, therefore, I think it would be premature to pass such a comprehensive measure as this affecting Ireland without any knowledge on the part of that country. Until I saw the notice on the Paper and took up the Bill, I had never heard from anyone in Ireland that so comprehensive a change in the law was about to be made. I therefore trust the House will not assent to the Second Reading without, at all events, further inquiry and investigation into the merits of the proposed change.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I think that what my noble and learned friend has just said in reference to this Bill is entitled to every consideration. I understand that one of the objects of adjourning the Second Reading, which was suggested by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, was to enable the attention of the country to be directed to the proposals in the Bill before they are passed. I am generally in favour of assimilation of laws for the United Kingdom, though I think some further consideration should be given to this proposal. If the Second Reading is adjourned the provisions of the Bill can be looked into and considered in Ireland and elsewhere, and we shall be able to judge whether this would be an appropriate change in the law.

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, in reply to what was said by the noble and learned Lord opposite, I should like to point out that there are a good many Chambers of Commerce in Ireland very ably represented at the meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. They have always supported this measure, and there has never been any opposition from any of them. On the contrary, they have given it their hearty support, and I venture to think he will find that in Ireland as well as in England there is a desire that the law should be amended. I quite feel that the Bill is not one which ought to be hurried, and I shall be glad to fall in with the suggestion of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, and allow the Second Reading to stand over for a short time.

Debate adjourned to Tuesday next.

ELECTIONS MEETINGS IN (SCHOOLROOMS) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order.)

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords, there are no Amendments down to this Bill, but there may be some verbal Amendments necessary. In these circumstances, I think it would be better that they should be taken in the Standing Committee if the noble Marquess opposite will agree to that course.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I offer no opposition to the course which the noble Lord proposes, provided that the verbal Amendments which he intends to propose do not essentially affect the the principle of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment, to the House, and recommitted to the Standing Committee.

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, I do not think that in submitting this Bill to your Lordships I need trespass on your attention for any length of time. I think it will be accepted that in the consideration of this Bill it is not necessary to enter upon the controversy as to marriage with a deceased wife's sister, which has provoked a considerable amount of discussion in this House, and discussion sometimes characterised by a good deal of difference of opinion. This Bill, I think it is agreed, does not affect that question. It does not on the face of it alter the marriage law of this country, or, I may say, of any part of His Majesty's dominions. It arises from the fact that the position of the law in different parts of the Empire has created an inequality. It is the object of this Bill to remove that inequality, an inequality which may be said to be a consequence of this difference in the marriage laws, but not an inherent part of the laws themselves. Still, as they are felt oppressive by subjects of His Majesty, His Majesty's Government have thought it desirable to bring in a Bill on this subject.

There is another reason why I think I may be brief on this occasion, and it is that my noble friend opposite, Lord Strathcona, brought in Bills on this subject in 1898 and 1900, which, if not substantially the same, were at any rate on similar lines to that which I have the honour to introduce to-day, and on both occasions, though exception was taken in this House to the principle of the Bill and divisions were claimed, the Second Reading was carried by a large majority. I think, my Lords, that under these circumstances, though perhaps it is necessary for me to set forth briefly the objects of the Bill, I may count on the general knowledge of Members of the House, and, perhaps, on their sympathy in so doing.

Marriage with a deceased wife's sister has been legalised by Acts of the Legislature in all the self-governing Colonies except one, and those Acts have been approved by the Sovereign. They are of considerable standing in many cases. I find that the first of the Australian Acts was passed in 1871, and the last, that of Queensland, in 1878. New Zealand followed in 1880, Canada in 1882, Natal in 1888, and the last was the Cape in 1892. In addition to that, there are Acts or Ordinances in many of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates—altogether there are, I believe, about twenty Acts or Ordinances on this subject; and I may remind your Lordships that, so far from this question being a Party one, eight of those Acts were sanctioned when a Liberal Government was in office and the remainder when the Party supported by noble Lords opposite were in power. It is, therefore, the fact that a very large part of the Empire has Acts of this description, and has been long interested in the matter.

I find that on previous occasions it has sometimes been used as an argument that there has been an absence of agitation on the subject, and it has been held that that shows either a want of interest, or that there is no real grievance. My noble friend Lord Strathcona, in proposing the Bills in 1898 and in 1900, showed that there was no ground for that view. My noble friend spoke strongly himself, and he is recognised not only as the trusted representative of Canada, but I might also say as a representative of colonial feeling throughout the Empire. In addition, at that time a petition was presented to this House, signed by the Agents-General, in favour of the Bill; and since then, in November, 1904, a despatch came from the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, of which I will read the last sentence—

> "I am assured that the anomaly is seriously regarded in Australia, and my Ministers most earnestly desire that the grave hardships and personal degradation arising from the existing conflict between British and Colonial law in this respect should be removed by Imperial legislation."

I might also, perhaps, appeal to a number of noble Lords in this House who have acted as Governors in the various Colonies of the Empire. All of them, I believe, will agree with me as to the feeling on this subject in the Colonies, and that it is in the interest of our connection with the Colonies that their grievance should be removed.

I think that an examination of the nature of the anomaly to which I have referred will show by itself the justice of the complaint. As I have said, there is no proposal in this Bill to make an alteration in the law of marriage. The title of the Bill is—

> "An Act to declare the law with respect to a marriage between a man and his deceased wife's sister domiciled in parts of the British Possessions where such a marriage is legal."

The Bill is no longer, as it has been on some former occasions, a Bill to amend the law of marriage. It has been practically accepted in the latest discussions that, even as the law stands, such a marriage, if it was contracted under the conditions which are described in this Bill, namely, between two persons who at the date of the marriage were each domiciled in a part of the British Possessions in which such a marriage was legal—is even now legal throughout the British Empire. Such a marriage, I believe, is a valid marriage in the United Kingdom, and the children of that marriage are legitimate children. But, although that may be so, a difficulty has arisen, and it arises not as regards the marriage itself, but as to the succession afterwards to real property and to honours and dignities. I should have been diffident in making a statement on such purely legal matters in the presence of noble and learned Lords in this House if I had not been confident that that was a position which had already been accepted. The debates on the more recent Bills have been more a defence with reference to the law of real property than with reference to marriage with a deceased wife's sister. I am not competent to discuss the reasons for making distinctions of this kind, but if it is the case that this is the real issue, I think there cannot be a stronger case for the Bill which I have the honour to lay before your Lordships.

We have no longer to deal with questions of ecclesiastical law or of morality. The Bill is intended to remove a bar which prevents a person who has been honourably united in legal wedlock within the Empire from enjoying the rights and privileges in this part of the Empire which we ourselves enjoy. It seems to me to be contrary to a just conception of the Imperial connection to deny to our fellow-subjects in the Colonies this claim; and if we turn to a less sentimental reason I cannot see that anything but loss could result if we were to throw an obstacle in the way of the colonist who desired to return home to take up his abode in this country and to add to its resources the wealth which he had accumulated in other regions. Nothing would be more contrary to the feeling of real kinship and of Imperial unity and solidarity.

It is a matter of no small importance also that there should be a removal of restriction in the matter of honours. We have been proud to welcome in this House Members from the Colonies. Some have dreamt, and I have some sympathy with their imaginings, that it would perhaps be possible to find in the future some solution of many Imperial problems of administration and action in the further expansion of that system. But, whether for that purpose or otherwise, I do not see how we can fairly offer our Colonial brethren less than we possess ourselves.

My noble and learned friend Lord Davey pointed out in one of the last debates that we had not only in this country to look to new creations, but also to the possibility that sons of Members of this House might go to the Colonies, and that in course of time they might have descendants tracing their descent from marriages such as those with which this Bill deals, and their descendants might thereby be debarred from succession to the honour in this House. From whichever way you look at it, it appears to me that in this matter of honours and dignities it is in every way desirable that we should not place those who succeed to them and are of Colonial descent in any inferior position to that which we ourselves occupy. I consider myself fortunate that I have been the first to present a Bill on this subject on behalf of the Government, and I hope it will be accepted by the Colonies as a proof that we are animated in this matter by a spirit of justice and sympathy. I beg to move the Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

*VISCOUNT HALIFAX: My Lords, I should like to draw your Lordships' attention to the fact that this Bill, if it becomes law, will do two things. It will introduce a fundamental change in the English law of inheritance in respect of real property; and it will make the right of succession depend upon the law of the Colony in which the claimant was born, and not on the *lex loci*, the law of England, where the property in question is situated. Moreover, it will enable the inhabitants of the United Kingdom who desire to do so to break the existing marriage law of England with absolute impunity.

I would ask your Lordships' permission to say a few words on these two points. First, as to the Colonies. I am the last person in the world to desire to thwart the Colonies in the management of their own affairs. On the contrary, I think they ought to be allowed to manage their own affairs free from interference from home. Your Lordships know how disastrous I have felt the action of His Majesty's Government to be in this respect in relation to South Africa. But it is no reason, because the Colonies should be free, and entirely free, to manage their own affairs, that therefore they should be allowed to interfere in ours. It is one thing to sanction the laws they choose to make for themselves; it is quite another to alter our laws at home in order to bring them into conformity with the laws passed in the Colonies.

It is urged, on behalf of this Bill, that it is a hardship in respect to the succession to real property in the United Kingdom that the children of certain marriages, legal in the Colonies, are regarded as illegitimate by the laws of England and cannot inherit such property by descent. This is a misleading statement of the case. They can inherit such property by will, and the only case in which they would not inherit would be where those from whom they inherit die intestate. Is that any great hardship? Those who own landed property very seldom die intestate, and the case of colonists holding land in England who die intestate is rarer still. In fact, the noble Lord Lord Strathcona, and those responsible for a similar measure to this introduced on a former occasion, were challenged to produce a single case where hardship had occurred under the present law, and they were not able to produce one.

I venture to say that this question of inheritance has no real substance in it, and that the real object of the Bill is not primarily to alter the law of inheritance, but by a side wind to facilitate an alteration of the existing marriage law of England. Now, in regard to that law, it is said to be a grievance that those who are considered legitimate by the law of the Colonies should be considered illegitimate by the law of England. Are your Lordships aware that precisely the same thing applies to Scotland? By the Scottish law, subsequent marriage legitimatises the children born before wedlock; by the English law it does not. Did ever any one hear that it was a grievance that children considered legitimate in Scotland, and capable of inheriting by descent in Scotland, are considered illegitimate in England, and incapable of inheriting by descent in England? Did any one ever propose that the law of England should be altered and assimilated to the law of Scotland in that respect? It was, indeed, proposed once in early English history, and what was the answer this House gave then? The answer was—

Nolumus antiquas leges Angliae mutari.

What the barons of England said then I think their successors should say to-day. We do not choose to alter the ancient laws of England because our Colonies have made laws for themselves which conflict with the principle on which the whole of our immemorial marriage law is founded.

In all these matters you must act on a principle. Is it proposed to legitimatise the issue of a marriage between a man and his niece? That is a marriage allowed in some of our Colonies. If the principle of this Bill is sound, why not? Is it proposed to legitimatise the issue of marriages contracted after a divorce because the husband or wife is an habitual drunkard or has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not less than three years? Yet such marriages are legal, and the issue of them legitimate, in the Colony of Victoria. My Lords, there is no principle in this Bill except that of setting all principle at defiance.

I turn to my second objection to the Bill. Under it a man or a woman will be able to go to the Colonies, profess to get domiciled there, contract a marriage illegal in England, and later on return to England legally married, and with a marriage which could not be questioned by English law although it is one which the English law forbids. Was there ever such a violation of reason and of principle, such a temptation to collusion and dishonesty, and, I will add, to immorality, or one so calculated to bring, not merely the marriage law, but the whole law into contempt? My Lords, in respect of all these matters, in regard to the growing and increasing scandal of the divorce laws, in regard to the injury they are doing to morality, in regard to the confusion and increasing confusion which attaches to the whole of our existing marriage law—a law which is different in England, Scotland, Ireland, and the Colonies, there is only one sensible thing to do. It is that His Majesty's Government should appoint a Commission to inquire into the whole of the marriage and divorce laws, and should consider the question of making, as is the case in almost all other countries in Europe, civil marriage compulsory everywhere and upon all. If this were done there might be some hope of seeing principle and peace and reason prevail in regard to these questions. As it is there is none, and I am obliged to say that this Bill is only another step in the direction of making in regard to all these matters our present confusion worse confounded.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I only desire to interpose for a very few moments in this debate, and I feel I ought almost to apologise for doing so, considering that, as the noble Earl the Colonial Secretary has pointed out, the Bill confines itself entirely to the legal question of succession, and makes no interference of any sort or kind with the law of marriage either in England or in the Colonies. The noble Earl emphasised that point more than once in his speech, and it is on that ground that I feel no inclination to press to a division any objections which we may entertain to legislation of this character, because of its indirect bearing, as we think, upon the possibilities of change in the English marriage law at home. I think, however, that the point to which the noble Viscount has just referred is worthy of note, that whereas the Colonial Secretary has told us that the object of the Bill is to remove inequalities between England and the Colonies and that such inequalities where they exist are, I think he said, a just hindrance to the Imperial spirit, these inequalities will not really be removed by this Bill if it passes in its present form.

It is not my wish to increase the exceptions to or variations from the English law which are to be legalised in this country supposing the marriage to have been contracted in the Colonies. I know that there are Colonies in which a woman may marry a deceased husband's brother, and that there are other Colonies in which a man may marry his widow's niece. I believe there are other Colonies in which there are still further variations from the English law. What this Bill proposes to do is to pick out from among those anomalies one particular variation and to give an *imprimatur* here in England to that special form of variation. It may thus be said to give, in an indirect way, a kind of sanction here to the theory that that particular kind of marriage is harmless or desirable, whereas such a marriage as that of a man with his widow's niece is undesirable, inappropriate, and ought not to be legitimatised in England, or, rather, that succession ought not to be possible in England to a marriage so contracted in the Colonies. That does not seem to me exactly to bring about equality; but those are questions which are so intricate that I do not desire to follow them out in detail.

My main objection to any change whatever in the existing marriage law of England is that I have seen no proposal made which would not have the effect of reducing the whole thing to a condition of confusion and chaos; and it must not be said hereafter that, because we do not, on this question of succession to property, press our objections to a division, we have abated our objections to such a change as has sometimes been proposed in our own law and which may conceivably come before Parliament again. We still object as strongly as ever to the expediency of such changes; but, because we feel that this is a question of property, some of us are prepared, reluctantly, to acquiesce in a change which has been declared by the colonial authorities to be in their opinion essential. That is the attitude which I personally shall take on the subject; but I am anxious that a protest should be made on our part to-night, lest there should afterwards be some misunderstanding as to our position.

*LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL: My Lords, I am in a somewhat different position in this House from that occupied by the noble Lords I have the honour to address, in that I represent in England the Dominion of Canada. I am therefore outside Party politics and I feel that I can be at home in the House on one side or the other. This is a measure which ought to be regarded wholly apart from politics and I have much pleasure in congratulating Lord Elgin on the introduction of this Bill. It is most appropriate that it should be brought in by him, not alone because he is Secretary of State for the Colonies, but also because of his intimate connection with the outlying parts of the Empire he has served so well.

It is appropriate for another reason that this Bill should be introduced by the noble Earl, because his illustrious father was Governor-General of Canada. He also served in Jamaica at a time of great difficulty there; and we know also that in India he distinguished himself as a statesman and an admirable representative of the Crown. The noble Earl's grandfather on the maternal side was also Governor-General of Canada, and it was in a great measure owing to his memorable report that responsible Government was extended to Canada and to the other Colonies. And, lastly, we in Canada are proud of the fact that the noble Earl was born in Canada, and that we are, therefore, able to include him as one of Canada's sons.

I can assure the noble Earl that the introduction of the Bill under the auspices of the Government will give the utmost satisfaction in Canada and in all the Colonies of the Empire. It has been regarded as a great grievance by our Colonists that, while they may legally contract a marriage with a deceased wife's sister in their Colony, when they come to the mother country, their home, if they happen to do so, their marriage is looked upon as illegal and their children as illegitimate. Let me ask any noble Lord to imagine himself in that position, and to think what his feelings would be in the circumstances. This is but a measure of justice to the Colonists; and I hope that, now that the Bill has been taken up by the Government, it will be passed into law, and that the Colonists will have the satisfaction of knowing that their marriages legally contracted place them at no disadvantages, and that their privileges and rights are equal in all respects to those enjoyed by their fellow-subjects in this country. I trust that this Bill will be passed unanimously, and am sure that it will be another step towards the closer union of the different parts of the Empire.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, as is well known to your Lordships, no one speaking from this Bench (the Front Opposition Bench) can say that he represents all who sit on this Bench on either side of this question, because, though on nearly every subject we are agreed, on this subject we are not wholly agreed. But this, however, I think I can say, that no one in your Lordships' House desires to throw any kind of difficulty in the way of the Colonies, much less do we wish to throw obloquy on any of our Colonial fellow-subjects. But I am amazed to hear this Bill advocated, as it was by the noble Lord who has just sat down and by the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the plea of equality. This Bill will establish not equality, but inequality; it will enact an absolute inequality between those British subjects who reside in the United Kingdom and those who have been domiciled in the Colonies whose legislatures have passed enactments legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

It is not true to say that those of us who view this Bill with disfavour are in favour of inequality. We are anxious to give our colonial fellow-subjects every privilege which we ourselves possess. At present an Englishman does not possess the privilege, if it be a privilege, of marrying his deceased wife's sister, and, so far as our law is concerned, our colonial fellow-subjects stand on precisely the same footing as we stand ourselves. May I say that equality of the kind which the Colonial Secretary and the noble Lord who has just sat down advocate —that is to say, a state of things under which whatever has been enacted in a colonial legislature should have effect in the United Kingdom — is impossible of achievement. In the course of this evening's debate it has been pointed out to your Lordships that marriage with a deceased wife's sister is not the only variation between the marriage law of this country and that of the Colonies. In some Colonies marriage with a deceased husband's brother is legal, and in others marriage with a deceased wife's niece. So that the ostracism of which the noble Lord spoke with so much feeling, if there be such ostracism, will still be applied to colonists living in this country who have come from Colonies in which these exceptional forms of marriage are permitted.

But, my Lords, what I think is the most significant feature of to-night's debate is the announcement by the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies that in his view—and I presume he speaks on behalf of the legal advisers of His Majesty's Government—this is merely a question as to the succession to property. Are we to lay it down that whenever the law of succession to property differs in the Colonies from our own we are so to modify our law that colonists coming into this country may take advantage of their colonial law in regard to the succession to property in this country? That is what it comes to. I think it will be found, if the legislation of the Empire is studied, that there is every conceivable variation of the law of succession to property, including, I believe, though I speak with some trepidation before all the legal luminaries in your Lordships' House, the French law, which gives a widow an absolute right to a part of the property of her deceased husband. We could not alter our law in that respect.

If it is argued that a woman who has certain rights under colonial law should have those rights secured to her by British law when she comes to this country, we should have to grant the franchise, which is conferred on women in New Zealand. The mere fact that Colonial law differs from our own is not a reason why any modification should be made. But if it be contended that such should be the case there ought to be reciprocity, and laws under which we live in this country ought similarly in the case of persons going from the United Kingdom to the Colonies to be acknowledged in the Colonies. Is that the case? Your Lordships know that it is not the case. Under the common law of England every British subject has a right to come into England. Indeed, we let almost everybody in, and it was with the greatest reluctance that we excluded even undesirable aliens. Is it ever suggested that because that is the law of England the colonial legislatures should therefore modify their law and allow every British subject to enter the Colonies? Nothing could be more resented in the Colonies than a suggestion of that kind.

I need not repeat what has already been stated in this debate, that within the ambit of these islands there are differences in the law; but never has it been contended that the law of Scotland should govern the law of England. In my opinion it is not the question of succession to property that gives the motive power to this Bill. I believe it to be absolutely true to say that what is really intended is, by a flank movement, to give strength to the case for the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. If the Bill were one for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister in England then it would be our duty to give reasons for, or against, that proposal; but I do think that to try and carry such a fundamental change in the marriage law of this country by a flank attack is an unworthy method of procedure. Let those who are in favour of marriage with a deceased wife's sister say so, and come forward with a proposal that can be discussed on its merits. I certainly concur in the protest which has been uttered against this Bill.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, feeling strongly as I do that justice requires that this Bill should be passed, I desire to notice several matters that have been mentioned in the course of this debate. The suggestion has been made, both by the noble Viscount and by my noble friend who has just spoken, that this is a flank movement in support of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The answer to that is very plain to those who know the facts. Who are the persons promoting this Bill? Nominally the Government, but they are not the real promoters. The promoters of the Bill are the Colonial representatives who have again and again demanded this legislation in the most emphatic way.

In 1897 every Colonial Prime Minister saw Mr. Chamberlain at the Colonial Office and demanded this Bill. Do you charge them with being accomplices in a flank movement to secure marriage with a deceased wife's sister in this country? At the time of the Coronation the Colonial Prime Ministers were again in this country, and renewed their application for this Bill. The Bill was again asked for in the despatch which my noble friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies read from Lord Northcote, who spoke on behalf of the whole Commonwealth of Australia. Is the Governor of the Commonwealth to be included as an accomplice in this act of political duplicity? Then there was the speech of my noble friend the representative of Canada in this country. Is he a culprit and an accomplice in this matter ? Surely such an argument as that cannot prevail.

I now turn to the merits of the Bill. The indignation of the noble Viscount rests merely upon the difference in regard to succession to leasehold and freehold property. A child of such a marriage is entitled under the Statute of Distribution to leasehold property of 999 years, but the noble Viscount is shocked that he should be able to inherit freehold property. Let me point out how absurd this law is. A man comes to this country after having married his deceased wife's sister in the Colonies, and dies disposing of freehold and leasehold property by will. Thereupon his representative in making a return would declare that, A B having made a will leaving to his son C D, lawfully begotten, certain leasehold property, that property should pay 2 per cent. duty. Then he would go on to say that the same A B having left the same C D, not born in lawful wedlock, certain freehold property, the latter being stranger in blood, should pay 10 per cent. duty; such is the inequality in the law the Bill is intended to remove. It is a constant grievance, a slur, and an insult.

I remember some thirty years ago hearing Mr. Disraeli, in the House of Commons, depict the career of a successful colonist. Great enterprise and great industry had secured to him great wealth, and he became, as Mr. Disraeli said, a lord of flocks and herds. This lord of flocks and herds, according to the picture, returns to this country. He obtains possession of a country house, he becomes Member for his county, he becomes high sheriff, and finally he attains the honour of a seat in this House. That was the picture Mr. Disraeli drew. It may be a picture that many a colonist may reproduce. But, if he has married his deceased wife's sister, over that picture a dark shadow must be cast, for if he comes to this country and dignities are conferred upon him, the father's honour is the son's shame. The slur of illegitimacy is cast upon his son, and he could not succeed to the honour which the Sovereign had given to his father. If he went to a public school he would not be Mr. So-and-so. I have only to add that my noble friend Lord Lansdowne is unhappily called away by family bereavement, but I am authorised by him to say that it was his intention to have supported this Bill.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK: My Lords, I am sure your Lordships will feel that it is difficult for an unpractised layman like myself to put in any word upon this matter in a manner against what has fallen from one to whom we look with such respect as to Lord Strathcona, and from the noble and learned Lord who has just addressed the House, but I cannot help feeling what a remarkable discrepancy there is between the arguments which have been used, and the conclusion to which we are brought. The pictures which have been drawn for us of persons who suffer, or who are put in an unwelcome or unpleasant position, are pictures which do not apply to the particular case we are asked to deal with. The noble and learned Lord who spoke last said that he would apply the principle to this particular case, because it has been asked for in this case and not in others. But that is rather an uncertain ground for a distinction of this importance.

It is said that the object of the Bill is to remove the inconvenient effects upon a Colonist which come from his having married a deceased wife's sister; but though it is very perplexing to a lay Member of your Lordships' House to ascertain exactly what position such a person stands in, whether his marriage is valid or invalid, it would appear from what we have heard to-night that he suffers no disability except that his children are unable to inherit real property. At any rate, it does not bring us to the conclusion that by passing the Bill we shall remove the difficulties under which he labours.

While the Bill singles out and deals with a particular case, the argument for it covers a number of cases. It is not desirable that I should indicate to the House how many cases the argument might cover—some of them of a questionable character occuring even within the Colonies. That being so, it is not surprising that those who feel strongly upon the main question of the marriage laws should be anxious as to the use which may be made of this precedent at some later period when we are asked to make a change which we greatly deprecate. I would like to know whether the legal advisers of the Government have considered the possibility of the evasive use of the powers which the Bill gives by persons going out to the Colonies to do there what they cannot do at home.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, I can assure the right rev. Prelate that there is no danger of any evasion. The principle on which the Bill rests is the recognition only of certain marriages between persons domiciled outside the United Kingdom. The right rev. Prelate appears to be animated in this matter by the disapproval in which he holds another proposal of a different character. It would not be logical or reasonable to use anything done in connection with this Bill as an argument for or against another. We are now concerned with a particular Bill dealing with a particular and limited subject. We are asked why we have not got the courage of our opinions, and why do we not say at once that we would recognise as valid here marriages that are valid in the Colonies. We are not likely to make or assent to any such proposal and I do not believe that noble Lords who make such a suggestion have in mind the multifarious marriage laws of the Empire.

The Hindu marriage laws, for example, allow marriages which are revolting from our point of view. He would be a wise man who would be able to say he could give a ready answer to many of the problems relating to the international conflict of laws connected with marriage. Accordingly I would say, "Never take a step forward or backward in regard to the marriage law without knowing exactly where you are going, or you will step into a quicksand." There is no law more full of quicksands. That is why this Bill assumes the modest proportions it does. I wish to dissipate the notion that in voting for this Bill we are committing ourselves to something else beyond the limits of the Bill.

The law at present I believe to be that this country recognises as valid all marriages abroad or in the Colonies, unless they are repugnant to the common religion of Christendom, if they were contracted by persons domiciled in the country where the marriages were legal. Accordingly, I believe that these marriages are valid now for all purposes except for one class of law, and that is the law relating to the land itself and to the honours and dignities which descend like realty. That I believe to be the law generally accepted by authorities. I am not aware of an express decision on the subject, and there may be a doubt in the minds of some; and for that reason there is inserted in the Bill the phrase "for removing doubts." The only exception is that in the case of real property in England the English law of succession does not admit as a capable inheritor any person who would not be legitimate according to the law of marriage in England itself. It is a peculiar rule limited entirely to real property.

The Bill does not propose to alter the law of succession to real property; it proposes to alter the incapacity of certain persons to come within the law of succession. The law of succession will remain as before, only a person who in every other sense as I believe, and most legal authorities believe, is legitimate at this moment will have the same legitimacy in the line of inheritance to real property. It seems to be rather a strong thing to say that when we have had the sanction of both sides of the House to Acts of Parliament passed by British Colonies legalising unions which they and many people in this country regard as perfectly legitimate, we should, for no public object that I can see, affront the sense of self-respect of our Colonial brethren by refusing to place them on the same footing as their own countrymen place them, and as we ourselves place them except with regard to one class of property. The present state of things might easily be regarded as an absurdity, and the sooner we comply with the reasonable demands of our fellow countrymen in the Colonies the better.

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I should like to ask the noble Earl when he proposes to take the Committee stage.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: I have not yet fixed the day, but I shall be glad to meet the noble Duke's convenience.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I only desire that we should have sufficient time to consider Amendments.

THE UNEMPLOYED PROCESSION.

LORD TEYNHAM: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether it was with the knowledge and approval of the Home Office that a banner inscribed "Work or Riot" was carried through the streets at the head of the unemployed procession on Monday. It appears to me, and I think it will appear also to your Lordships, that it is neither right nor prudent that such a banner, bearing an incitement to a breach of the peace, should be allowed to be carried through the streets of London. I quite appreciate the fact that these processions and the speeches which are made at the meetings are regarded as a useful kind of safety valve. Wild words which may be spoken before a few hundred idlers in Hyde Park may, however, do little harm, but a seditious banner carried through the streets with the apparent sanction of the authorities, and which may be read by thousands of people, may be productive of great mischief. It is clear that the authorities did not regard this procession with indifference, since yesterday a very large force of police were drafted into the West End. It seems curious that this force should have been employed while a banner inciting to riot was allowed to be carried. I have great sympathy with the genuine unemployed, but it was clear that the procession in question consisted for the most part of the unemployable, public-house loafers and members of the criminal classes. I trust that in the interests of the public safety the Government will see that in future no banners of a seditious or inflammatory character are allowed.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, it is true that such a banner as the noble Lord has described was carried in yesterday's procession. Both the procession and the meeting, however, were perfectly orderly, and no necessity for intervention arose. The Home Office had no previous notice of the matter, and were, therefore, unable to take any steps. I venture to think that the noble Lord's melancholy prognostications as to the future are not likely to come true.

LORD TEYNHAM: I should like an Answer to the Question whether the Government will in future endeavour to see that such banners are not carried in processions.

[No Answer was returned.]

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 15*th May*, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London and South Western Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill; Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Water Provisional Order Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, and the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902, relating to Eastwood and Cathcart and Kilpatrick," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 210.]

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

1. "That, in the case of the Oldham and Saddleworth Tramways (Abandonment) Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the Poole Corporation Water, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the Ritz Hotel, Limited [Lords], Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

4. "That, in the case of the Crellin's Patents [Lords], Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to.

London United Tramways Bill. Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Millwall Dock Bill, without Amendment; North Metropolitan Tramways Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee, to amend the Judicial Trustees Act, 1896, and otherwise to amend the Law relating to the administration of Trusts." [Public Trustee Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the transfer to the Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies of certain works authorised by the Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock (South Yorkshire Extension Lines) Act, 1902, and to the Great Central Railway Company of the undertaking of the Rotherham, Maltby, and Laughton Railway Company; to empower the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company to construct a new railway, and to acquire additional lands; and for other purposes." [Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company to provide and work steam vessels between the Port of Hull and certain Continental Ports, and to subscribe to the funds of Steamship Companies; and for other purposes." [Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time limited for the purchase of lands and for the construction and completion of the tramways, street widenings, and works authorised by the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Act, 1903; and for other purposes." [Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for an increase of the share capital of United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, and for other purposes." [Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Cambrian Railways Company to acquire additional lands and to extend the time for the completion of the railway authorised by the Cambrian Railways Act, 1904; and for other purposes." [Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the vesting of the Undertaking of the Donegal Railway Company in the Midland Railway Company and in a Joint Committee of that Company and the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland), to incorporate such Joint Committee and to transfer to that Committee certain of the powers of the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) in connection with the Undertaking of the Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Company; and for other purposes." [Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railway Bill [Lords.]

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [Lords]; Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]; Great Northern

(Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour; From Cartwright; Coedymoeth; Dallas; East and West Elliot; Rhymney; and, Wortley and Farnley Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Dorset, against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions in favour; From Aberdeen; Congleton; Downham Market; Faversham; Hexham; Hornsea; Keighley; Kilburn; London; Middlesbrough; Old Colwyn; Porth; St. Ives; Scarborough; Sheffield; Swindon; and, Workington; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration, From Bolton; Grantham; Peckham; Preston; and Tavistock; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Ambrosden; Angle (two); Banstead; Battyeford (two); Black Bourton; Bletchingly; Bournemouth; Chandlersford; Elvetham (two); Gileston; Great Bookham and Little Bookham; Hampstead; Holbeck; Hooton; Hope Mansel; Hurstbourne Tarrant (two); Ipswich (two); Jordanston; Keyham; Kidsgrove (two); Kilburn; King's Capel; Knight's Enham cum Smannell; Llanmaes; Llantwit Major; Lyonshall; Merton; Mile End; Mirfield (two); Paddington; Pamber Heath; Rhoscrowther; St. David's (two); Sellack; Spitalfields; Stoughton (two); and, Taynton; to lie upon the Table.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.

Petitions in favour; From London and Oxford; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS (IRELAND).

Return (presented May 14th) to be printed. [No. 170.]

TREATY SERIES (No. 5, 1906).

Copy presented, of Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark, providing for the settlement by Arbitration of certain classes of questions which may arise between the two Governments. Signed at London, October 25th, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3585 and 3586 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND ACT, 1903 (INVESTMENT OF FUNDS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 7th; *Sir William Bull*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 171.]

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of Shops in the Burgh of Airdrie [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICES (UNITED KINGDOM).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered March 22nd; *Mr. Leif Jones*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 172.]

METROPOLITAN POLICE (ARRESTS).

Address for "Return of the number of Apprehensions of the Metropolitan Police Force in each of the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, and of the number of cases in which proceedings were taken against members of the force in respect of such arrests, or in which after inquiry they were found not to have been justified by the facts."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

FOREIGN TRADE (COMPARATIVE GROWTH).

Address for "Return showing the total imports and exports (special trade) for each of the following years—1854, 1864, 1874, 1884, 1894, and 1904 of the following 12 countries, viz. :—1. France; 2. German Zollverein and German Empire; 3. Belgium; 4. Holland; 5. Russia; 6. Austria-Hungary; 7. Denmark; 8. Sweden and Norway; 9. Spain; 10. Portugal; 11. United States; 12. United Kingdom."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Mr. James Ward and Castlebar Urban Council.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that Mr. James Ward, who is undergoing a term of imprisonment in Castlebar Gaol for seditious libel, was on April 23rd unanimously co-opted a member of the Castlebar Urban Council; that the clerk to the council immediately proceeded to the prison, with a view to get Mr. Ward to sign his declaration of acceptance of office, and that he was prevented doing so by the prison officials; is he aware that Mr. Ward was also prevented signing his franchise paper, thereby rendering it impossible for him to be elected a county councillor this year; and will he explain why the prison officials took that course, and why the Prison Board have not given any reason for such action on the part of the officials.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I understand that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. The prison governor informed the clerk of the council that he had no authority to allow him to visit Mr. Ward for the purpose mentioned, but that he (the clerk) should apply to the General Prisons Board for the necessary permission. The clerk applied accordingly, and the board in due course gave the necessary authority to the governor, but, owing to a clerical oversight, for which the board express regret, they omitted to inform the clerk of the council of the result of his application. I am advised that, as Mr. Ward did not accept office, another casual vacancy has been created, and there is nothing to prevent Mr. Ward from being again co-opted. I am informed that it is not the fact that Mr. Ward was prevented by the prison officials from signing his franchise paper. The paper was handed to him, but he refused to fill it up, stating that he was not a householder.

Sale of the Hewston and Harris Estate.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether the farm of 195 acres in possession of the landlord, when the latter sold his estate known as the Hewston and Harris estate, of Killmacart, Hacketstown, to the Estate Commissioners, has been divided amongst the smaller tenants; will he say why one of the tenants, named James Keating, who applied for a parcel of the land, was refused it; and whether any of the 195 acres have been given to persons who had not been tenants on the estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) It is understood that this Question refers to the estate of Messrs. G. Hewson and J. E. Penrose, trustees with power of sale. The Estates Commissioners inform me that they offered nineteen acres of the untenanted land to James Keating, but he refused to take it. All the untenanted land has been divided among tenants and former tenants on the estate with one exception, namely, that of a tenant in the neighbourhood of the estate.

Postal Promotion at Stafford.

MR. C. E. SHAW (Stafford): To ask the Postmaster-General with respect to the recent appointment of a junior selected from the Shrewsbury postal staff to the inspectorship of postmen at Stafford if he will explain what are the exceptional qualifications necessary for the appointment to and continued holding of that post; also will he state what educational examination or practical work and experience is deemed essential or necessary; and what facilities and opportunities are afforded to men already on the Stafford postal staff, whereby they may fit themselves for appointment to the post in question.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The necessary qualifications at Stafford, as elsewhere, are capacity for control and supervision, and knowledge of the duties performed by postmen. No educational examination is deemed necessary for promotion to an inspectorship. In the Stafford post office, as in other post offices, the postmen who seem likely to make efficient inspectors are given opportunities of proving their fitness by trial on their duties as occasion offers. I may point out that the officer selected for the situation was an assistant inspector of postmen, and was already, therefore, of higher rank than the men over whom he was placed.

Suggested Diplomatic Representative at Bolivia.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, considering the increasing commercial importance of Bolivia, he will consider the advisability of having a separate diplomatic representative for that country.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's Minister at Lima was, in 1903, accredited as Minister-Resident and Consul-General to Bolivia, and a Consul was appointed who resides at La Paz, with Vice-Consuls at Sucre and Oruro. The present arrangement has been found so far to meet the requirements of the case, and it is not considered that there is as yet sufficient ground to justify the appointment of a separate diplomatic representative in Bolivia. The question will, however, be borne in mind with regard to future developments if such occur.

Scottish Local Taxation.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if, in view of the distress existing in the Highlands and Islands, largely caused by the high rates imposed for services more or less national, rising up to 20s. in the £, he will take into consideration the separate recommendations of Lord Balfour of Burleigh and Lord Blair Balfour appearing in the Final Report on Local Taxation, 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The severity of the present burden of rates in certain parishes of the Highlands and Islands has been engaging anxious attention. An inquiry into the local finance of the Lews and the Long Island has just been concluded by the Local Government Board, and the Report will be laid upon the Table. The effect of the separate recommendations appearing in the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, if applied to the parishes under review as part of the whole subject, is receiving careful consideration.

Bovine Tuberculosis Commission—Publication of Interim Report.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will state what is the cause of the delay in issuing the Interim Report of the Royal Commission on Bovine Tuberculosis; and whether he can state when it is likely to be issued; and whether a definite result and recommendation to meat inspectors and medical officers of health may be expected from the experiments now being carried on at Stanstead.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) As I have stated on a previous occasion, the Royal Commission have a Report in preparation, together with an Appendix containing the details of a large amount of experimental work. I understand that they do not think it desirable to publish the Report until the Appendix, which is of a voluminous character, is complete. I am informed that they cannot state definitely when it will be issued, but that they are anxious that it should be published as soon as possible. As regards the last part of the Question, I hope that a definite result may be obtained from the experiments at Stanstead, but I cannot at present make any statement on the subject.

Printing for Royal Commissions.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representative of the Stationary office, whether he is aware that the work of many of the Royal Commissions now sitting is delayed, and expense to the country is caused, through the inability of Messrs. Wyman and Sons, the contractors for Government printing, to complete the printing orders of the Commissions within a period of time which other printers in London would find sufficient; whether he is aware that the delays have been more frequent since the contractors have done the printing of the Commissions' work at Reading;

whether the contract contained any condition that the Government printing should be done in London, where the London trade union rates prevail, rather than in the country, where the rates are believed to be lower; and, if so, whether the condition as to printing in London can be enforced in order to prevent, as far as possible, the delays complained of.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Two specific complaints have been received from Royal Commissions of delay due to some of the printing being executed at Reading. In one case proofs were delivered in the afternoon of the day instead of in the morning, as requested. In the other, proofs asked for Tuesday were not delivered until Wednesday evening. But such delays are quite as frequent with printers whose work is done entirely in London. As Messrs. Wyman started their works at Reading almost immediately after they secured the contract in 1897, it is not possible to make the comparison suggested. The contract contained no stipulation as to the place at which the work was to be executed.

Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): To ask the Secretary for the Home Department whether he can supply any information to show what will be the estimated additional cost of insurance in the coal and ironstone mining, engineering, shipbuilding, and textile industries, respectively, resulting from the reduction of the qualifying period in Clause 1 of the Workmen's Compensation Bill from fourteen to three days.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have not got this information at the present time, but I will endeavour to obtain it.

Licensing Regulations.

MR. GODFREY BARING (Isle of Wight): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the recent decision of the Hampshire Quarter Sessions with regard to the license of certain premises in the Isle of Wight, the renewal of which, owing to the premises being structurally deficient and unsuitable, was refused by the Isle of Wight licensing justices, he will consider the desirability of instituting legislation to strengthen the powers of petty sessions in dealing with cases which depend for their solution upon a full knowledge of local circumstances and conditions.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have considered the report of the case which the hon. Member has been good enough to furnish to me. It shall be noted for consideration with other similar cases bearing on the question of appeals against the decisions of licensing justices in regard to the renewal of licenses.

The Teachers' Register.

MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University): To ask the President of the Board of Education in how many schemes for endowed schools a clause has been inserted to the effect that the name of the head master should be on the teachers' register; and what steps the Board of Education intend to take with regard to such schemes in view of the proposed abolition of the teachers' register.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The number is 123. The Board are giving careful consideration to the point referred to in the second paragraph of the Question, but I am not yet prepared to make an announcement upon it.

Irish Revenue and Expenditure.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the total amount of revenue from all sources derived from Ireland during the financial year ended March 31st, 1906; and per contra the total amount paid by the Treasury during same period towards the maintenance of the public service grants in aid and other sources of outgoing in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The particulars desired by the hon. Member have been given for previous years in the form of an Annual Return. The latest Return of the series is No. 230, of 1905. The corresponding Return for the financial year 1905–6 will be furnished if moved for.

Indian Police Promotion.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the supersession of twelve European police officers in Madras by the importation from Burma of an official of junior standing, who has been graded above them; whether a transfer of a police officer from one province to another is not practically unprecedented; and whether, having regard to its effect upon promotion and pension prospects, he will take steps to prevent its recurrence and grant some redress to the superseded officials, whose services to date had given complete satisfaction.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have no official information as to the reasons which led the Government of Madras to assign to the officer transferred from the Burma to the Madras police the particular place in the list allotted to him. It is by no means uncommon for police officers to be transferred from one province to another, and it is open to any officer who considers himself aggrieved by the seniority given to an officer so brought into the service to memorialise the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the subject.

Indian Officials—Transfer from other Districts

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the dissatisfaction which transfers of territory from one jurisdiction to another excite in India, he will take into consideration the objections of the inhabitants to the proposed transfer of the Namakal Falug from the Salem to the Trichinopoly district.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have not had before me the proposal referred to in my hon. friend's Question, but should it be laid before me I will give full consideration to the circumstances of the case.

Medical Supplies for Irish Boards of Guardians.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will arrange that the Local Government Board of Ireland shall give to Irish boards of guardians the same discretionary power regarding tenders for chemical and medical supplies as are exercised by English boards of guardians.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In Ireland one-half of the cost of medicines and appliances is borne by the Local Taxation Account, and a statutory duty is imposed upon the Local Government Board of seeing that no undue charge is placed on this account. It is the opinion of the Local Government Board that they could not, consistently with their duty, allow boards of guardians to accept without good reason a tender other than the lowest for the supply of these medicines and appliances. It is understood that in England medical officers have generally to provide the drugs under the terms of their appointment.

Sale of the Thompson (Clonfer) Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state if any reply has been received by the Estates Commissioners from the Scottish Provident Insurance Company, as mortgagees in posession of the Thompson (Clonfer) estate, on the subject of a sale to the Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have communicated with the Scottish Provident Insurance Company and have received a reply to the effect that the Company has no mortgage on the property in question. The Commissioners have made other inquiries, but have failed so far to ascertain who the present owners are. If they should be supplied with information as to the owners, they will make further inquiries in the matter.

Cusack Estate, County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any further progress has been made in the matter of the sale of the Cusack estate in county Longford.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) On April 27th the Estates Commissioners made an offer to the Land Judge for the purchase of this estate, and I am informed that the offer will be brought before the Judge for his consideration at as early a date as possible.

Evicted Tenants—County Wexford.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have recently been able to acquire a considerable tract of land in county Wexford with a view to a further settlement of the question of the evicted tenants in that county; and if he can state when the Commissioners expect to be able to proceed to the distribution of the land.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that, in addition to 1,744 acres of untenanted land in this county already purchased, they have agreed to purchase some 1,900 acres, schemes for the distribution of which are in course of preparation. They are also negotiating the purchase of additional untenanted land in the county, amounting to over 1,000 acres, of which they cannot obtain possession before November next.

The Royal Canal.

Mr. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will obtain from the Board of Control of the Royal Canal a vouched and audited Return of the aggregate amount received by the Midland Railway Company each year since that company acquired the canal from all persons for use of the canal banks or of the grass or other growth on those banks, along the entire course of that canal; a statement of any action taken by the Board to have that money applied to the maintenance of the canal; if the money has been appropriated by the railway company, a reference to any statutory authority or judicial decision under which this has been allowed; and the intention of the Board of Control with reference to the future disposition of this canal property, in view of the unnavigable condition of the canal.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) As I informed the hon. and learned Member on Wednesday last,† the entire question of the constitution and powers of the Board of Control is under consideration, and I am, therefore, not yet in a position to make a statement on the subject of the Question. I would ask the hon. Member to defer further questions in the matter for some little time.

Desertion of Bernard Collumb, of Granard.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is prepared to extend to Bernard Collumb, of Granard, who deserted from his regiment in 1901, an indemnity from arrest and prosecution on payment of the fine prescribed in cases of soldiers purchasing their discharge.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply is in the negative. The Army Council can make no terms with men in a state of desertion.

Injuries to Soldiers employed in Quasi-Civil Employment.

Mr. COCHRANE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state, either in the form of an Answer or in a Return, the total number of men belonging to the military forces of the Crown employed as artificers, engineers, mechanics, or in other quasi-civil employment, not on active service, who have received injuries in the course of their employment; and what gratuity or other form of compensation has been paid in each individual case during the years 1904 and 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) As regards the numbers injured, the information can only be obtained by calling for Returns from all the commands. As regards the last part of the Question, apart from treatment in hospital, the only form of compensation to soldiers injured in this way is the grant by the Chelsea Commissioners of pension on discharge.

Sanitary Condition of Bulford Camp.

Captain FABER (Hampshire, Andover): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the huts at Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain have been found to be insanitary; and, if so, whether there is any intention of abandoning the camp.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply to both parts of the Question is in the negative.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The Navy.

Mr. RIDSDALE (Brighton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many battleships, armoured cruisers, and protected cruisers have been removed from the fighting list of the Navy since January 1st, 1902; and how many of the same classes have been laid down?

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1305–6.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Since January 1st, 1902, the following ships have been removed from the fighting list:—eight battleships, ten armoured cruisers, twenty protected cruisers. The following ships have also been classed as of comparatively small fighting value:—three battleships, sixteen protected cruisers. Since the same date there have been laid down:—thirteen battleships, eighteen armoured cruisers, four protected cruisers.

Naval Construction.

MR. COWAN (Surrey, Guildford): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many battleships and armoured cruisers are there now under construction for the British, French, and German navies respectively; and how many additional vessels of these two classes are already sanctioned to be laid down this year by each of these countries.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: There are at present under construction, for the British Navy, six battleships and ten armoured cruisers; for the French Navy, six battleships and five armoured cruisers; for the German Navy, five battleships and two armoured cruisers. The programme of new construction in the Estimates now before the House includes provision for four armoured vessels. The German Estimates for the current year include provision for two battleships and one armoured cruiser; and the French Estimates include provision for six battleships.

Jamaica—Cost of Naval Residences.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what has been the cost of the official naval residence at Jamaica; whether it is now completed; for what purpose is it to be used; and whether it was built on the recommendations of the then commander-in-chief of the North American and West Indian station.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I assume that the Question refers to the four official residences which were completed during 1905 at a cost of £8,800. These residences have been lent to the War Office. They were built on the recommendation of the commodore who was at Jamaica in 1902.

German Navy Estimates.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what increase in the German Navy Estimates, inclusive of pensions, is provided for under the revised programme for the year 1909 over and above that provided under the naval programme of 1900 for the year 1906, and also over and above the revised programme for 1906.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The German naval programme of 1900 authorised an expenditure in 1906 of £9,877,500. The revised programme of 1906 increased this estimate to £12,318,982, and estimated the expenditure in 1909 at £15,036,693. These figures are exclusive of pensions, the cost of which cannot be stated.

Permanent School of Cavalry.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the advantages of Netheravon as the site for the permanent school of cavalry have been fully considered, and whether a decision has been arrived at.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): The question is still under consideration.

Military Bands.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the band of the Coldstream Guards attended on the 9th inst. at the annual meeting of the Liberal Social Council, at the Royal Horticultural Hall; and, having regard to the occasions upon which the voluntary presence of military bands at Unionist meetings has been forbidden in consequence of Liberal objection, he will say why an exception was made in favour of this association.

MR. HALDANE: The band of the Coldstream Guards played at the reception of the Liberal Social Council in 1904, 1905, and on May 9th, 1906. The rule which has for some time been followed is that a band is permitted to take engagements at any meeting or social gathering provided no political speeches are delivered. On each of the occasions mentioned it was ascertained with very great care that no political speeches would be delivered, and none were delivered.

Native Revolt in Natal.

MR. BENNETT (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, before the outbreak of the present revolt in Natal, Colonel Leuchar's field force destroyed kraals belonging to black subjects of the King and raided 1,000 head of oxen and 3,000 sheep and goats; whether he can inform the House who received the money paid for these looted cattle when they were sold by public auction between March 16th and March 22nd; and whether, in view of the effect upon the rebellion of the suffering and starvation of Zulu women and children entailed by such destruction of dwellings and food supplies, he proposes to take any steps to prevent any further destruction of kraals or food supplies.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The hon. Member will see from the papers published last week the circumstances in which Colonel Leuchars took action against the chief Gobizembe, and in which the chief was fined 1,200 cattle and 3,500 sheep and goats for serious acts of defiance. The money received for these cattle was presumably paid into the Natal Treasury. There is no reason to believe that there will be any destruction of kraals or seizure of food supplies, except on the ground that such action is necessary to prevent the spread of rebellion; and the Secretary of State is not prepared to take steps in the matter as suggested.

Irish Emigration to Canada.

MR. HAZLETON (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the Canadian Government pays the sum of £1 (one pound sterling) to shipping agents in Ireland on every ticket they sell to emigrants from Ireland to the Dominion of Canada; and whether, in view of the fact that such encouragement of the Irish emigration evil is injurious to the welfare of Ireland, he will make representations to the Canadian Government to have this practice discontinued without delay.

MR. CHURCHILL: My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. The hon. Member is right in supposing that the Canadian Government, being desirous of stimulating immigration to the Dominion, pay a bonus of £1 to booking agents in respect of each immigrant from Great Britain and Ireland belonging to certain prescribed classes. This bounty, though no doubt acting as a stimulus, does not appear to be the sole or even the main cause of the excessive emigration from Ireland which now prevails; and the remedy must, I think, be of a more comprehensive character than would attach to such representations as the hon. Member suggests.

Council of the Government of India—Elected Members.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the fact that there are only four elected members of the Council of the Government of India, will he consider the expediency of arranging for an increased number of elected members.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The Regulations, framed under the Indian Councils Act, 1892, provide for five, not four, of the non-official members being elected, while the Governor-General is required to make nominations to the remaining non-official seats, "in such manner as shall appear to him most suitable with reference to the legislative business to be brought before the Council and the due representation of the different classes of the community." I am not prepared to press the Governor-General to modify the Regulations in the manner suggested.

Debate on the Indian Budget.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is in a position to hold out prospects of an early date for discussing the Indian Budget.

MR. MORLEY: I hope to be able to introduce this discussion as shortly as possible after Whitsuntide.

Indian People and Local Self-Government.

Mr. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the dissatisfaction that prevails in India, arising from the fact that the Indian peoples have no control of the finances of the country, and also because of the fact that their representatives in the legislative councils are unable, by reason of the Constitution, to initiate any measures for the better government of the country, His Majesty's Government are prepared to consider whether some measure of self-government, similar to that which operates in other British Colonies and possessions, may also be extended to British India.

Mr. MORLEY: It would be impossible for me, within the limits of an Answer across the floor of the House, to give an opinion on the far-reaching subjects with which this Question deals. I fully understand the spirit of the Question, but His Majesty's Government are not of opinion that circumstances demand the total reconstruction of the Indian system of government, and are not prepared to initiate the vast constitutional changes indicated.

Mr. O'GRADY asked whether the Government would be prepared to consider proposals at some subsequent date.

Mr. MORLEY: I cannot commit myself further than to assure my hon. friend that the subject is one which engages my attention.

Mr. REES: Is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied that dissatisfaction does prevail among the Indian peoples on this subject?

Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Is it a fact that 50,000,000 of the Indian people never get a full meal from one year's end to another.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Presidency College of Calcutta—Proposed Appointment of the Professor of Sanskrit.

Sir H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to an official answer given in the Legislative Council of Bengal, that a proposal has been made to appoint a European officer to be professor of Sanskrit in the Presidency College of Calcutta; and whether, seeing that this proposal has given rise to unfavourable comment in India, and is opposed to the popular feeling in favour of employing properly qualified Indians to be teachers of Sanskrit in Government colleges, he will take steps to prevent the proposed appointment.

Mr. MORLEY: I understand from the Question and Answer to which the hon. Gentleman has referred me that a proposal to create a professorship of Sanskrit in the Presidency College, Calcutta, is under consideration by the Government of India. When the proposal is submitted for my sanction I will not neglect the point which the hon. Member raises.

Partition of Bengal.

*Mr. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the administration of the new province of Eastern Bengal is identical in type and character with and similar, as regards the laws in force, the manner in which and the personnel by which they are administered, to the old province of Bengal before its subdivision; whether he has any official information showing that the dissatisfaction which is manifested by the richer, the upper, and the student classes in Eastern Bengal extends to the masses of the people; and, if so, in what way it is believed that they are affected by the change, and in what manner they have given expression to their dissatisfaction.

Mr. MORLEY: The answer to the first paragraph of the Question is in the affirmative. I have no official information which leads me to think that the mass of the population of Eastern Bengal regard the recent administrative changes with dissatisfaction.

Superintendent of Chinese Customs.

Mr. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information as to the appointment of a Chinese official as superintendent of Customs in China, in violation of the agreement of February, 1898, whereby, in consideration of the withdrawal of the

British demand for the opening up of Talienwan as a treaty port, the Chinese Government agreed that the post of inspector-general of the maritime Customs should be held by a British subject so long as British trade with China continues to exceed that of any other Power.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer on this subject given on Friday last,† in which the promise given by the Chinese Government was stated, and it was announced that we have asked for an explanation of the decree of the 9th instant. But I must add that there is no connection between the opening up of Talienwan to commerce and the Chinese undertaking as to the post of inspector-general of the maritime Customs.

Turkey and Egypt.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what are the usual channels made use of when official communications pass between the Turkish and Egyptian Governments.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Communications between the two Governments pass either between the Grand Vizier and the Khedive or between the Porte and the Egyptian Government.

Case of Hannah Smith.

MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the case of Hannah Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, who, on July 30th, 1894, was convicted of the murder of her child, Hannah May Smith, at Thornton-in-Craven, in the West Riding of York; is he aware that the child was born on May 1st, 1894, and its life taken three weeks afterwards; that it was deposed at the trial that in the opinion of the medical superintendent of the Wakefield Asylum Mrs. Smith was suffering at the time of the murder from homicidal frenzy as the result of puerperal insanity; that Mr. Justice Grantham remarked that every one who had heard the case must sympathise with the prisoner and hope that after a time her mind would recover its power, and that eventually she would be in such a state that she could return to her friends, and that Mrs. Smith is still confined in Broadmoor Asylum during His Majesty's pleasure; and if he will say whether Mrs. Smith's health of mind and body are now such as to warrant her removal from Broadmoor Asylum and her restoration to her friends.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I should be glad if I could allow the patient's discharge without risk of relapse and of danger to herself and others, but taking into consideration her present condition and all the other circumstances of her case, I regret that I do not feel justified in authorising her discharge from the asylum.

Royal Commission on Experiments on Animals.

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is prepared to make any statement as to the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider the working of the Act under which experiments on animals are permitted for the purposes of medical research.

*MR. GLADSTONE: In view of the fact that no inquiry into the subject has been held for thirty years, it is the intention of the Government to recommend the appointment of a Royal Commission to examine the working of the Cruelty to Animals Act in the light of present scientific knowledge.

Sweated Industries.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the evidence of sweating indicated by the exhibition in London of goods made under sweating conditions, and also the fact that sweating prevails in the cabinet making, glass bevelling, clothing, and boot and shoe industries, he will agree to the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the conditions of the trades covered by the exhibition, and also those named in this Question; and, in the event of such Royal Commission being appointed, whether the terms of reference will include the question of recommending legislation to remove the evils of sweating.

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† See Col. 38.

*Mr. GLADSTONE : The question is of great importance and of great difficulty, and it is engaging my attention. But I cannot make any statement at the present moment.

Mr. O'GRADY : Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of appointing a Royal Commission.

*Mr. GLADSTONE : We already have three Royal Commissions and two Departmental Committees dealing with subjects with which the Home Office is concerned, and I am afraid our powers of absorption are limited. I therefore cannot hold out my hope of a Royal Commission.

Mr. O'GRADY : Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman considers this subject of less importance than those on which Royal Commission are to sit ?

*Mr. GLADSTONE : I did not say that.

London Town Clerks as Returning Officers.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that, by the virtue of the provisions of The London Government Act, 1899, town clerks in London prepare the Register of Voters for Parliamentary and other purposes and act as returning officers and deputy returning officers for elections other than elections for Members of Parliament, he will consider the desirability of promoting legislation to appoint them returning officers at Parliamentary elections also, and, pending legislation, of approaching the High Sheriff of the county of London with a view to their appointment under the procedure at present in force.

*Mr. GLADSTONE : I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my right hon. friend. I may say that the late High Sheriff of London, who had this question brought before him by the Woolwich Borough Council, saw no reason for making any alteration in the appointment of returning officers, as he was satisfied that their duties had been carried out in a satisfactory manner. But I shall be happy to consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

Overcrowding on London Railways.

Mr. THORNE (West Ham, S.) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what powers the Board of Trade possess in preventing overcrowding taking place in the railway carriages upon the various railways, and whether the Board has any power in forcing the directors of London District Railway Company to run additional trains between East Ham and Aldgate East between the hours of 5 a.m. and 9 a.m., and between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., so as to prevent the overcrowding that takes place every night and morning between the hours mentioned.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) : The Board of Trade have no statutory powers with regard to the overcrowding of trains generally, but they can deal under the Cheap Trains Act, 1883, with the provision of sufficient trains for workmen between the hours of six in the evening and eight in the morning. Under this Act the Board have recently been in communication with the Metropolitan District and London Tilbury and Southend Railway Companies with regard to the train service between East Ham and stations on the Metropolitan District Railway, and since the electrical working of the line was commenced the number of workmen's trains has been largely augmented. The Metropolitan District Railway Company, to whom a copy of the hon. Member's Question has been communicated, have informed me that they are at present running thirty-six trains from East Ham to Aldgate East between 5 and 9 a.m., and twenty-eight from Aldgate East to East Ham between 5 and 8 p.m. They also state that they are carefully watching the traffic on this line, and have put on two additional trains from East Ham in the morning and two from Aldgate East in the evening since the beginning of the present month.

Liverpool and Southport Electric Railway.

Mr. WEIR : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state how many persons have been electrocuted on the Liverpool and Southport Electric Railway since March 1st last, indicating the number electrocuted at Freshfield Station.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: One fatal accident from electrical shock has been reported to the Board of Trade as occurring on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway since the date referred to. This accident occurred to a man, name at present unknown, whilst trespassing on the railway about a quarter of a mile from Freshfield Station on 8th instant. There have also been in the course of the last two months three fatal accidents to persons crossing the lines at Freshfield Station, but neither of these accidents is attributed to electrical shock, the unfortunate persons killed having been knocked down by trains. The Board are in communication with the company as to the arrangements at the station in question.

Roads and Motor Car Traffic.

MR. KING (Cheshire, Knutsford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to complaints by farmers in Cheshire, and other agricultural counties, of the damage and inconvenience which they suffer from the dust raised by the passage of motor cars over country roads in dry weather; and whether he proposes to take any steps to abate the nuisance.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have received, and am still receiving, resolutions from a number of local bodies, not only in Cheshire, but elsewhere, referring to the vexatious and damaging nuisance caused by dust raised by motor cars. I have given instructions that these resolutions shall be communicated to the Royal Commission on Motor Cars, who have the subject under consideration.

In reply to Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford), Mr. JOHN BURNS said he believed the Commission had power to consider the question of road construction as affected by this traffic.

Scottish Congested Districts Board.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state by whom estates which the Congested Districts Board have purchased were inspected and valued, and the qualifications of such officers.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I can only say that in all cases the Congested Districts Board took the utmost care to obtain the most competent opinion as to value before concluding any purchase.

Crofters Acts.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the cause of the delay in introducing the promised Crofters Acts Amendment Bill.

MR. SINCLAIR: I cannot admit that there has been any delay due to lack of desire or effort on the part of the Government. Every endeavour is being made to further the progress of the Bill.

Stranorlar Evicted Tenant.

MR. MCVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that when Patrick Hannigan, of Cappry, Stranorlar, East Donegal, was evicted from his farm in 1899, by the landlady, Alice A. Hayes, that she, by her agents, in 1904, tumbled down his dwelling house and office houses, and burned his furniture therein; and that he is now reinstated to facilitate the sale of the estate under the Land Purchase Act of 1903; and will he advise the Estates Commissioners to refuse to sanction the sale of the estate unless the evicted tenant is compensated for the loss of his houses and furniture.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Estates Commissioners have no information as to the matters of fact alleged in the first part of the Question. The owner has given his consent to an inspection of the holding formerly occupied by Hannigan, and this will be carried out in due course by the inspector for the district, and the claims of the evicted tenant reported on.

Mr. J. D. O'Connor's Kilgefin Estate.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an offer has been made to or negotiations opened up with the Estates Commissioners by Mr. J. D. O'Connor, Ballagh House, Roscommon, for the sale of a portion of his estate in the parish of Kilgefin; and whether, before coming to any decision, the Commissioners will consider the necessity of having included in the sale the entire of the tenanted and untenanted land on the estate.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are unable to trace any proceedings in respect of the sale of the estate in question.

Sir N. R. O'Conor's Roscommon Estate—Tanlagee Farm.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the estate of Sir N. R. O'Conor, situate near Roscommon, was sold in February, 1905, to the tenants on the understanding that a farm known as Tangalee would be divided amongst them, and that this condition has not been fulfilled; and whether he will explain the cause of delay.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the agreements for purchase lodged in connection with the sale of this estate include agreements for the purchase of nine holdings in Tanlagee. The lands comprised in the originating application for the sale of the estate include 162 acres in Tanlagee, which it is proposed to sell to the Estates Commissioners as untenanted land. The estate has not yet been dealt with, but the Commissioners will consider the question of the enlargement of small holdings when the untenanted land is being disposed of.

Carbery Estate, County Cork.

Mr. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a settlement has been arrived at for the reinstatement of Patrick M'Carthy in his farm on the Carbery estate, at present in the occupation of Arthur Deane, J.P.; how many evicted farms are occupied by Arthur Deane or his father, B. B. Deane; has the inspector visited those farms; and, if so, with what result.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that a settlement of the case referred to in the Question has not yet been arrived at. The Commissioners have had the case of Patrick M'Carthy and the holding formerly occupied by him reported on by one of their inspectors. This report will shortly come before them for consideration. The Commissioners have no information as to how many evicted farms are at present occupied by Mr. Arthur Deane or his father.

Irish Assistant Teachers.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the total number of assistant teachers (male and female) in Irish national schools; their initial and average salaries; the number who have given ten years service and are classed second grade under the old rules; the estimated additional sum which would be required to give those teachers present second grade salary and increments; and whether he will state the average salary paid to Scotch assistant teachers.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Commissioners of National Education that on December 31st, 1905, the number of assistant teachers employed in national schools was 4,338, namely 1,219 male and 3,119 female teachers. The initial salaries of these teachers, respectively, are £56 and £44 per annum, with the addition in each case of the residual capitation grant. Their average salaries, including residual capitation grant, are £73 13s. 10d. and £58 7s. 9d., respectively. The numbers who have had ten years service and are classed second grade are 265 and 745 respectively. The Commissioners estimate that the sum required to provide minimum second grade salaries for all assistants who are receiving less salaries would for the first year be between £8,000 and £9,000. For succeeding years the charge would be an increasing one, but the ultimate amount could not be estimated without an actuarial calculation. According to the latest published returns, the salaries of Scotch assistant teachers are, for men, £120 11s. 8d., and for women, £73 8s. 8d.

Land Judge and Insolvent Estates.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what action the Irish Government propose to take with reference to insolvent property in the Land Judge's Court for sale, but which the Land Judge refuses to sell at the value ascertained by competent inspectors on behalf of the Estates Commissioners.

MR. BRYCE: I understand that under all the Land Purchase Acts affecting estates in the Land Judge's Court the Land Judge is the supreme determining authority, both in case of solvent and insolvent estates, as to the price. The learned Judge informs me that he arrives at his decision in each case after hearing evidence on both sides, and that there are very few cases in which he has been unable to come to terms with the Land Commission. He has in several cases, under Section 40 of the Land Act of 1896, lowered the purchase price suggested by the Commissioners.

Royal Irish Constabulary Uniform Contracts.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the clothing of the Royal Irish Constabulary is not of Irish manufacture, either with respect to material or workmanship; whether, in view of the development of manufactures in Ireland, some consideration will be shown them in respect to the cloth required for such uniforms; and why are they not invited to tender.

MR. BRYCE: It is the fact that cloth of English or Scotch manufacture was used in the clothing which is now being worn by the Royal Irish Constabulary, but the materials have for several years past been made up by Irish tailoring firms. Irish manufacturers have invariably been invited to tender for the supply of cloth required by the Constabulary, and an experiment is now being made with the object of ascertaining whether Irish manufacturers can supply cloth in all respects fitted for the clothing of the Force.

Clonakilty Evicted Tenant.

MR. EDWARD BARRY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that since the death of Archdeacon McCarthy, the evicted farm in Castleventry, Clonakilty, of which he was nominal owner, is now in the hands of the landlord, an inspector has yet visited the farm for the purpose of reinstating Patrick Donovan, the evicted tenant; and, if not, will pressure be brought on the Estates Commissioners to get this farm immediately inspected.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have not yet been able to have the case of Patrick Donovan inquired into by an inspector, but that the case, together with others in the same county, will be taken up at the earliest opportunity.

West Clare Evicted Tenants.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will press upon the Estates Commissioners the necessity of reinstating the evicted tenants of West Clare before next autumn, in order to give them an opportunity of being able to prepare their land for the spring tillage.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they intend to make inquiries into the cases of evicted tenants in County Clare as soon as possible.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Will the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to recognise the extreme urgency of this question, as only ten out of some hundreds of evicted tenants have so far been restored to their holdings.

MR. BRYCE: I am sure the Commissioners are fully alive to the urgency of the matter and will act as quickly as possible.

Irish Fishery Boards.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if it is within the scope of the instructions to the Committee at present inquiring into the working of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ireland, to inquire into the transactions of the Boards of Fishery Conservators, or any one of such boards, for the years 1902, 1903, and 1906 to date.

MR. BRYCE: The Committee was appointed to inquire into the working of the Department. The transactions referred to would not appear to fall within the reference of the Committee, unless and in so far as they were in some way connected with the working of the Department.

Merchants Quay, Kilrush.

MR. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Merchants Quay, Kilrush, was the property of the ratepayers of the county of Clare prior to 1846, and that in 1846 the late Colonel Vandeleur got permission to extend the quay for the public benefit under the Act of 9 Vic., cap. 3, agreeing that it would still be the property of the Crown; and, seeing that the late Colonel Vandeleur did not complete the extension, and in view of its present condition, whether he will take steps to have the quay given over to the county council as representatives of the ratepayers.

MR. BRYCE: The question of the ownership of the Merchants Quay, Kilrush, has recently been the subject of legal proceedings in which the Attorney-General for Ireland, on behalf of the Crown, was joined as a defendant. Judgment was given by the Master of the Rolls in Ireland, declaring the plaintiff, Colonel Vandeleur, entitled to the quay, and this judgment has been affirmed by the Court of Appeal. The Law Officers are at present considering the advisability of further appealing to the House of Lords. It is not in my power to have the quay given over to the county council as suggested by the hon. Member.

Trench Estate—Evicted Tenants.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners intend restoring William Kennedy, an evicted tenant, to the holding of land formerly occupied by his parents at Plover Hill, Lorrha, county Tipperary, on the Trench estate, the farm, at present, being in the possession of the agent, Mr. W. J. Trench, who is a brother of the landlord, and who owns some one thousand acres of land in the same locality as the evicted farm.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they hope to make inquiries shortly into the case referred to in the Question.

Returns of Irish Agrarian Outrages.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state whether it has been decided to discontinue the periodical Returns of alleged agrarian outrages in Ireland, in view of the fact that no such Returns are issued in regard to England, Scotland, or Wales.

MR. BRYCE: It is not intended to continue the presentation of these Returns.

West Cavan Evicted Tenants.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say how many evicted tenants have been reinstated in West Cavan; how many are in process of being restored to their old holdings; have the Estates Commissioners purchased any untenanted land, or are they negotiating for same; and, if so, will he give the approximate figures.

MR. BRYCE: According to the Estates Commissioners' Returns, 19 evicted tenants have been reinstated in the County Cavan, and seven other cases are in process of settlement. The Commissioners have not yet purchased any untenanted land in the county, but have made an offer for 275 acres.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give any indication of the price offered to the landlord and why he refused to sell.

MR. BRYCE: I have no information as to that.

MR. KILBRIDE: You ought to have.

Ingham Estate County Cavan.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what is the cause of delay in putting through the sale of the J. H. Ingham Estate, county Cavan; is he aware that in August 1904 an agreenent was perfected to reinstate Patrick M'Connell, the evicted tenant; and whether, in view of the fact that a friend of the evicted tenant has paid to vendor's solicitor the difference between the sum applied for, £475, and the amount the Commissioners agreed to advance, £435, he will see that there is no unnecessary delay in the matter.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the advances in respect of the sale of this estate were sanctioned on 26th January last. The intervening time has been taken up with legal matters in connection with the title, and as soon as these are settled the advances will be made. The facts as to the case of Patrick Connell are as stated in the Question. I feel sure that there will be no needless delay on the Commissioners' part.

Land Commission Courts' Delays.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that John Mannion, Clonaderg, Athlone, caused an originating notice to fix a fair rent to be served on his landlord, Colonel Williams, now four years ago; will he say why this case has not yet been dealt with; are there any restrictions preventing the Land Commission Courts from doing a full day's work in court; and do such restrictions also apply to the lay Commissioners, who systematically only value one or two farms per day.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed by the Land Commission that the case of John Mannion cannot be traced on their register of outstanding applications to fix fair rents, but the Commissioners are making further inquiries in the matter. There are no restrictions of the nature indicated in the latter part of the Question. Assistant Commissioners are bound, under the conditions of their appointment, to give their entire time to the service of the Land Commission.

Mr. REDDY: How many days do they sit?

Mr. BRYCE: I believe they give their whole working time to the service of the Commission.

Mr. REDDY: Oh! you believe!

King's County Evicted Tenants.

Mr. REDDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of evicted tenants in the Birr Division of King's County who have applied to be restored; in how many cases have reinstatements taken place or other suitable farms have been supplied; and what quantity, if any, of untenanted land has been purchased in this division by the Estates Commissioners.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that they have received applications from eighty-four persons claiming reinstatement as evicted tenants in the King's County. Of these, five have already been restored by the owners. The Commissioners have purchased some 239 acres of untenanted land in this county, and are in negotiation for the purchase of nearly 5,000 acres more.

Moystown Petty Sessions.

Mr. REDDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say by whom, or acting on whose authority, was the petty sessions book signed in the name of the hon. Member for the Birr Division at Moystown petty sessions in April last; and in view of the fact that the order in one of the cases was varied subsequent to the courts adjourning, will he grant a full inquiry into the matter.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed that the name of the hon. Member was entered in the petty session order book by the clerk of petty sessions. If the magistrates themselves do not enter their names in the book, the clerk is empowered and directed to do so, and in the present instance the hon. Member does not appear to have entered his name. The granting of time to find bail was not part of the formal order of the court, and the order therefore was not varied. I am informed that the hon. Member himself was opposed to the granting of time for the defendant to find the necessary sureties. The other two magistrates, however, gave the defendant three days in which to do so, and subsequently extended this time until May 10th. The hon. Member had left the court when this extension was granted. The defendant has since given the required bail. I have no power to order an inquiry into any matter concerning the judicial action of magistrates.

Mr. REDDY: If three judges sat in the Court of the Kings Bench in Ireland and made an order, would two of them be allowed to vary it after the other one had left.

Mr. BRYCE: Possibly there has been some irregularity, but I gather that no substantial injustice has been caused, although, no doubt, it would appear from the book that the hon. Member had been a party to proceedings which he did not approve.

Mr. REDDY: You say no injustice has been done. But it is the work of the magistrates, who would not give a tenant a single hour's grace.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): How does the right hon. Gentleman justify this irregularity?

Mr. BRYCE: Not having seen the order book I cannot say exactly what has been done.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Will the right hon. Gentleman grant a Royal Commission to inquire into this matter? The allegation is that after the court was up and the magistrates had dispersed, two of them went back and varied an order which had been entered in the order book. That is a manifest irregularity, and I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he will have full inquiry made into the circumstances.

Mr. BRYCE: I do not know exactly what did happen. I rather gather the court continued after the hon. Member had left.

Mr. REDDY: I asked the clerk if there was any more business, as is usual in petty sessions, and was informed there was not, so I left.

Mr. BRYCE: I have never sat in petty sessions, and am not acquainted with the practice.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman make inquiry?

Mr. BRYCE: If the hon. Gentleman can, of his own knowledge, send me facts on which I can address an inquiry to the other magistrates I will see if I can get to the bottom of the matter.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): Is not the easiest solution of this difficulty to be found in the appointment of another Royal Commission?

Mr. KILBRIDE: Is not this the case concerning emergency men who in the the gaiety of their hearts went through the country firing revolvers?

Mr. BRYCE: I have no information as to that.

Mr. KILBRIDE: Then you ought to have.

Major Woods, Longwood Estate.

Mr. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Major Woods, Longwood, county Meath, has lodged purchase agreements between himself and his tenants with the Estates Commissioners, and that one tenant, Lawrence Hope, is being excluded from the sale; and whether the Commissioners will satisfy themselves, through their inspector, as to the grounds, and their validity, on which Major Woods refuses to sell to this one tenant.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the name of Lawrence Hope appears as a judicial tenant in the schedule of tenancies lodged in respect of the sale of Major Woods' estate, but that no agreement for purchase by Hope has yet been lodged. The circumstances under which Hope has not signed an agreement for the purchase of his holding will be fully inquired into when the other holdings on the estate are being inspected.

Report on Lunacy in Ireland.

Mr. CONOR O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say when the Report of the Inspector of Lunacy in Ireland as to the number of returned emigrants now inmates in Irish asylums will be published.

Mr. BRYCE: The Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums inform me that their Annual Report for last year, which will contain information on the point referred to in the Question, will be presented before the termination of the session, but they are unable to fix a precise date.

Dismissal of the Cloonkeen School Teacher.

MR. EDWARD BARRY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will cause inquiries to be made into the case of the dismissal of Cornelius O'Callaghan, Cloonkeen, Leap, county Cork; whether he is aware that O'Callaghan taught for twenty-nine years without any record against him, and that though his manager wrote for an investigation into the sickness that prevailed amongst the children before the annual examination of 1904 this was refused; and, seeing that for the unsatisfactory answering of the pupils in this one year O'Callaghan was got rid of after twenty-nine years' faithful service without either pension or gratuity of any kind, whether he will order a full inquiry into the whole facts of this case without further delay.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer to my reply to the hon. Member's previous Question of the 27th March.† I then stated, on the authority of the Commissioners of National Education, that in 1904, and for a series of years previously, the reports on Mr. O'Callaghan's work were of an extremely unfavourable character, and that he had been repeatedly censured and once fined. The Commissioners now inform me that there were, between 1879 and 1904, eleven unfavourable records against this teacher, all on account of inefficiency and the unsatisfactory progress made by his school. I have no power to interfere with the decision of the Commissioners who inform me that they do not intend to re-open the case.

Kerry Railway and Harbour Guarantees.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the total amount of rates levied in all Ireland in the year ended March 31st, 1905, for railway and harbour guarantees; the total amount contributed in relief of those rates from the local taxation account; the amount levied in Kerry for the same period for the same purpose; and the amount that would be required to pay the whole of such rate in all Ireland over 6d. in the £, and over 9d. in the £.

MR. BRYCE: It would not be possible for the Local Government Board to give the information asked for in the first part of this Question without obtaining Returns from all local authorities concerned. The total amount contributed in relief of rates for railway and harbour guarantees from the local taxation account in respect of the year ending March 31st, 1905, was £12,524 19s. 11d. The net amount levied in county Kerry for the same purposes during the year ended March 31st, 1905, was £11,932 4s. 8d., deduction having been made of the amount of refund under Section 58 of the Local Government Act of 1898. The information asked for in the concluding part of the Question cannot be stated with accuracy, as some of the counties concerned have not yet sent in claims for refund in respect of the year in question; but as regards the counties from which applications have been received, the sum required to pay the full amount of such charges over 6d. in the £ would be £25,049 19s. 10d., and the sum required to pay the full amount over 9d. in the £ would be £15,449 19s. 10d.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Kerry pays more in the shape of these guarantees than the whole of the rest of Ireland?

MR. BRYCE: I have not the figures before me.

Bangor Sub-Post Office.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can give an assurance that the sub-post office at Bangor will be properly equipped for telegraph, postal orders, and telephone service.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The new town sub-office which it is proposed to open in or near Ballymagee Street will be properly equipped from the first for the transaction of money order, postal order, and savings bank business; the question of the provision of a telegraph or a telephone service there must stand over until experience has shewn what the requirements are in that direction.

MR. MACVEAGH: Then is the right hon. Gentleman going to wait and see what the volume of business is at the office?

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 1082.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am going to wait and see what the requirements of the locality are likely to be.

Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway.

MR. T. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, if he is aware of the fact that the manager of the Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway Company took out a special train on or about 25th September, 1905, without the staff; that a special train was required to Mohill, and the manager of the railway sent the company's motor trolley, accompanied by two men, for the staff, and, before they returned, the manager allowed the train to proceed on its journey, stating that he would be responsible; that the train ran down the motor trolley on its return with the staff, severely injuring one of the men in it; and whether, seeing that the motor trolley was injured to the extent of £70, will the manager of the railway pay this £70, or will the ratepayers in the guaranteeing area have to pay it; and will the Board of Works, for the future prevent a repetition of the offence occurring.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: An accident of the nature described occurred on the 20th October last near Ballinamore on the Cavan and Leitrim Railway with the result that one of the men riding on the trolley concerned in the accident was slightly injured, and the trolley itself was damaged, but not to any great extent. The question of the manner in which the cost of the repairs will be borne is not for the Board of Trade to decide, but it will be pointed out to the railway company that this accident was due to a breach of the rules adopted by the railway companies for train staff working. The reference to the Board of Works in the conclusion of the hon. Member's Question was probably intended to relate to the Board of Trade, but I am sending a copy of the Question and my reply to the Treasury as representing the Board of Works.

Turkey and Egypt.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he can promise that before any hostilities are commenced in reference to the Egyptian frontier dispute, this House will be afforded an opportunity of discussing the matter.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling, Burghs): The answer to this Question is superseded by the important news announced yesterday.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) asked as to the course of business, what Supply would be taken on Thursday, and when the Committee stage of the Education Bill would be set down.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Committee on the Education Bill will be taken on Monday. On Thursday we shall take the Office of Works Vote and the House of Commons Offices Vote.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked when the next stage of the Trades Disputes Bill would be taken.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It does not look as if it would be possible before Whitsuntide.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2) [EXPENSES].

Resolution reported; "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of any expenses and allowances incurred under any Act of the present session to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1901."

Resolution agreed to.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION. [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the Expenses of the Secretary of State, and of the remuneration and Expenses of Medical Referees and Arbitrators incurred under any Act of the present session to consolidate and amend the Law with respect to Compensation to Workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment, and of Compensation to Workmen employed by or under the Crown in pursuance of such Act."—(*Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*)

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield Ecclesall) asked what the expense would amount to.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE Leeds W.) said he could not give at the present stage any estimate as to what the expenses likely to be incurred would be. A good deal turned upon what Parliament decided as to the proposals in the Bill. This Resolution was absolutely necessary, and the Government were simply adopting the ordinary course.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's Hanover Square) said the action of the Government seemed somewhat premature. The Bill was now before the Standing Committee, only three of the seventeen clauses had as yet been dealt with, and it was quite impossible to say what would be the result of the discussion upstairs. Could not the Resolution wait until the Compensation Clauses of the Bill had been dealt with?

*MR. GLADSTONE: We have taken the ordinary course, and it is of some advantage to do so as the Bill proposes to bring in postmen and others, and we may reach the definition clause at any time.

*COLONEL LEGGE: I am quite satisfied.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton): Will the right hon. Gentlemen bring in soldiers and sailors under the Bill?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That is a question of policy which cannot be discussed at this stage.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Order for the Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lancashire, Horncastle) asked why the Bill was called the Reserve Forces Bill. He was always under the impression that the Reserve Forces included the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteer Forces. This Bill dealt entirely with the Army Reserve, which he had always looked upon as our front line of defence. There were very few battalions which could be called out for active service unless the Army Reserve were called upon to fill the gap. In view of these facts he asked if it were wise to call the present Bill "the Reserve Forces Bill;" might it not lead to complications?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) replied that Acts dealing with the question had always been called Reserve Forces Acts, and although he had no doubt that there was a good deal in the noble Lord's criticism he had abided by the action of his predecessors.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) called attention to the fact that on Monday the Prime Minister had announced that the programme of procedure for Tuesday would consist of only a few little Bills. Unfortunately people differed in their opinions as to what things were little and what were large. He should not like to trust the Prime Minister's sense of proportion as to what were small Bills. [Cries of "Order."] He wished to call the attention of the House to Clause 2, and to ask for an explanation. It appeared to him to interfere with the privileges of the private soldier in determining in what branch of the service he should serve, as it repealed the enactment which prevented a reserve man from being called up to serve, without his consent, in any corps in which he had not previously served.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs) said with regard to the hon. Member's reference to himself that everyone must form his own judgment as to what was great and what was small. The criticism which might seem to one Member to be of great importance might to another Member appear to be of no importance at all. He had, however, covered any delinquencies of that sort by telling the hon. Member's leader that he should proceed with the Bills in the order they were to be found on the Paper. That would cover any characterisation of a Bill as being either large or small. He might also solve the hon. Member's doubts as to the measure itself by informing him that it was, *verbatim et literatim*, the Bill introduced by the late Government last year.

MR T. L. CORBETT rose again, but was informed that he had already exhausted his right to speak.

***COLONEL LEGGE** asked for an explanation as to the class of men to be enlisted in the Reserve. As far as his experience went the Army Reserve was composed of men who had served in the Army and had then been transferred to the Reserve. The Bill before them provided for the enlistment of men in that Reserve, but he was not clear as to what class of men would comprise the Reserve. Would they be men who had served in the Army or not? Would they be civilians?

MR. HALDANE explained that this was a Bill of the late Government and had been found necessary by experience in the South African war. Men were wanted in the Remount Department, but they could not take men from the Cavalry Reserve, because those men had enlisted only for that particular arm of the service. By this Bill the War Office took power, therefore, to enlist men for any arm of the service and to transfer Reserves from one branch to another. By the Reserve Forces Act, 1890, power was conferred upon the Secretary of State to enlist a man straight into the Reserve, and this power had been found very convenient. Men were given reserve pay to hold themselves in readiness to be called up if mobilisation became necessary.

Question put and agreed.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

SEAMEN'S AND SOLDIERS' FALSE CHARACTERS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham)) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) remarked that this was another Bill of the late Government. It proposed to amend the law relating to the falsification of seamen's and soldiers' certificates of service or discharge and to false statements made in connection with entry or enlistment into the naval, military, or marine forces. He wished to ask why the grave crimes of forgery or perjury should under this clause be punishable with imprisonment not exceeding one month. If a man forged he ought to be punishable more severely than by one month's imprisonment.

MR. HALDANE stated that this Bill only proposed a summary method of procedure. Proceedings could be taken at common law against a soldier or anyone else for cheating, but it was not always easy to get the jury to take so serious a view of the crime as they should. This Bill provided that the matter could be disposed of by a magistrate summarily and leniently. If a case was so serious that one month's imprisonment would be quite inadequate, the offender could be taken before a jury.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said that from the wording of the Bill it seemed as if the only remedy provided was the remedy of the Summary Jurisdiction Act. He pointed out that the offence in the case of forgery was a very serious thing, as the man would be guilty of forging a document issued by the Crown.

MR. HALDANE said his own doubt on that very point had been removed by an examination of Section 33 of the Act of 1889.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 2:—

MR. T. L. CORBETT moved the insertion of the word "knowingly" before "makes use of." He said a man might unwittingly make use of a false statement.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 24, after the word 'forces' to insert the word 'knowingly.'" —(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'knowingly' be there inserted."

MR. HALDANE considered the insertion of the word quite unnecessary, for the Bill showed no crime was committed without *scienter*. The draft of the Bill had been settled by the Treasury and Parliamentary Counsel and was in accordance with the wording of a long series of Acts, and he did not care to accept an Amendment which would involve a departure from long standing practice.

LORD BALCARRES said he could not understand the plea contained in the latter part of the right hon. Gentleman's answer, because they had already in effect got "knowingly" in two other portions of the Bill. He thought, however, that it was important that they should have the word "knowingly" inserted at this precise point. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that it did no harm, and it was only on a point of etiquette that he objected to the Amendment. It appeared that if a man made use of a false certificate he was liable to a certain penalty, and if he made use of any statement as to his character and previous employment which, to his knowledge, was false, he was also liable to a certain penalty. If the saving word of the Amendment were inserted, it would be an improvement. The right hon. Gentleman himself had admitted that the insertion of the word could do no harm, and it seemed to him that it might do considerable good to a person who was charged under the Bill. Under the circumstances he hoped the hon. Gentleman would press his Amendment.

MR. HALDANE objected to putting the word "knowingly" in at this particular point, because the fact was that in regard to this particular offence of making use of a false and fraudulent statement, *scienter* must be proved in the ordinary course of law. The section did provide that in the case of a statement as to his previous character and employment which was to his knowledge false in any material particular, a man should be liable to a penalty. In view of the fact, however, that the law as it stood would involve that a man should be convicted only if he knowingly made use of any forged or counterfeit statement as to his character or previous employment, it was, he thought, quite unnecessary to insert the word proposed.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) wished to know whether the right hon. Gentleman was certain that the words "to his knowledge" in the later portion of the clause were sufficient to govern the whole of the preceding portion. He thought it should be made clear that the *scienter* should be proved. Did not the words "to his knowledge" really come back to a false and fraudulent statement and should they not be applicable to the whole. He feared that the clause as it stood would put trouble in the way of magistrates in the course of exercising summary jurisdiction.

MR. HALDANE thought it was obvious that the words "to his knowledge" only referred to any statement which the man himself made, and not to the use of any forged or counterfeit statement.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N. W.) said he understood that the reason the words "to his knowledge" were put in in the second part of the clause was that a statement as to character and employment was only criminal when it was made falsely, and by means of a forged or counterfeit statement. The distinction was that a man might make a statement as to his character or previous employment without knowing it to be false, but he could not use a forged or counterfeit statement without knowing it. In both cases, however, the statement would be knowingly or wilfully made.

MR. HALDANE said his point was that *scienter* was part of the offence in the first part of the clause as applied to a forged or counterfeited statement, but in the second part there was legally no intention unless it was indicated by the word "knowledge." That passing on from the use of a document where *scienter* was implied gave the same effect to the clause.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said it appeared from the argument of the right hon. Gentleman that the words "to his knowledge" in the second part of the clause were quite unnecessary. One could not intentionally make use of a false statement without knowing that the statement was false. Therefore, if it was necessary to insert the words "to his knowledge" in the second part of the clause to make the matter abundantly clear, why was it not necessary to make it abundantly clear in the first part as well as the second?

*Colonel LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square) thought the Amendment would be a very useful one, and he quite agreed with what had fallen from the noble Lord. It was urged against them that this was a Bill prepared by the late Government, but even Unionists might occasionally be able to improve their own Bills. He thought the Secretary of State for War might accept the Amendment because it made the Bill read sensibly. In the first place, it appeared that if a man used any forged or counterfeit statement he should be convicted, but it said in the second place that if he made use of any statement which to his knowledge was false he should be also convicted. It seemed to him that if the amendment were accepted it would make the clause symmetrical in both its parts.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said the right hon. Gentleman had admitted that there was no harm in the Amendment and to the simple lay mind the word "knowingly" undoubtedly made the clause clearer than it was as it stood.

Mr. HALDANE said the difficulty was that the word "knowingly" in that position in the clause did nothing, because the law implied that the offence to which it referred must be done wilfully and knowingly. There was a distinction between the two branches of the clause, because it was not necessary to use the word "knowingly" in regard to the first part to constitute an offence, but in regard to the second part, which dealt with false statements, the words, "to his knowledge," were necessary. His predecessor determined to define certain offences. Certain of them were indictable, such as those coming under the first portion of the section, but those under the second portion came under the Summary Jurisdiction Act, and there it was necessary to put in the words "to his knowledge." In the indictable offences *scienter* was implied.

Lord R. CECIL said that knowledge might enter equally into the use and the making of a false or counterfeited document. Unlesss it was knowingly made, or falsely and fraudulently, there would be no offence.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he should like to make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman, because it was very important that these matters which were dealt with by courts of summary jurisdiction should be made as plain as possible. Knowledge was as essential in the one case as in the other, and therefore he would suggest that the word "knowingly" should be put in, and it should be allowed to govern the whole section, and that the words "to his knowledge" should be left out. Then it would be clear that knowledge was the essential part of the whole paragraph.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 68; Noes 314. (Division List No. 73.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clarke, Sir Edward (City L'ndon
Cooper, G. J.

Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Morpeth, Viscount
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. T. L. Corbett, and Mr. Meysey-Thompson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs, Leigh
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbt. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)

Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alexander
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncastr
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradfrd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, W. Dudley (South'mptn
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON moved to omit the words "to his knowledge." It appeared to him that knowledge was as essential in the one case as in the other, and that if it could be inferred in the one it could in the other. If the previous Amendment had been accepted it would have made the matter clear, but as the clause stood a distinction was drawn between making use of "any forged or counterfeit statement as to his character or previous employment," which did not carry with it the word "knowingly," and "any statement as to his character or previous employment," which required "knowledge." It was difficult to conceive how a man could use a false statement as to his character or previous employment without knowing it was false. This Amendment was to make the whole paragraph clear and uniform.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 2, to leave out the words 'to his knowledge.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. HALDANE said it was absolutely essential that the word "knowledge" should remain in this part of the clause. The earlier part referred to a forged statement which on the face of it was evidence of guilty knowledge, but in the second case guilty knowledge was essential but was not implied.

LORD R. CECIL said it was quite clear that in the earlier part of this clause the words, "makes use of any forged or counterfeit statement," meant the use of a statement that was forged or counterfeit to a man's knowledge. The right hon. Gentleman did not contemplate making it an offence unless the person using such statement knew it was a forged or counterfeit statement. There must be a guilty intention to constitute a crime at all, and that was so in the case of a forged or counterfeit statement or in that of a false statement. There was no distinction that he could see between a forged statement and a false statement. In either case the essential part was that it must be known to be forged or false. As the Bill was drafted, however, it would be an offence to make a forged statement even if it were not known by the person to be forged. Just as it was said to be quite clear in the earlier part that the forged statement must be forged to a man's knowledge, so if they left out these words it would be quite clear that the false statement must be false to his knowledge. If they inserted these words they would throw doubt on the meaning in the earlier part of the clause. It would suggest to the court that it was enough that the documents should be forged, whether forged to the person's knowledge or not. He hoped the Government, therefore, would accept the Amendment.

MR. GEORGE FABER (York) said the offence in question came under two heads, the man who made use of a forged statement and the man who made use of a false statement. Any alteration such as that now proposed would be wrong.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.) reminded the Committee that this was a Bill which had already passed the House of Lords, where it had been subjected to careful scrutiny. What was the proposal? That it should be an offence for which a man might be summarily convicted to make use of any statement in regard to his previous employment which was false in any particular. That was the effect of the hon. Baronet's Amendment. A man who was perfectly innocent might be convicted, and a more monstrous proposal coming from the front Bench he never heard of. Under those circumstances he hoped the Committee would reject the Amendment.

LORD BALCARRES said that apparently the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not aware that this precise point was raised on the previous Amendment. ["No, no."] At least the analogy was close, and the right hon. and learned Gentleman opposite had said that he saw no objection to the Amendment.

MR. ASQUITH: But this is an entirely different thing.

*LORD R. CECIL expressed surprise at the tone adopted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was a cardinal principle of the English law that nobody could be convicted without knowledge that he had been guilty of an offence. Whatever the wording was the courts would always require not only that the facts were different from what the soldier or sailor said they were but that he knew them to be different. Therefore it was quite unnecessary to insert the words proposed in order to safeguard the position which the Chancellor of the Exchequer seemed to think might arise.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he wished to say a word in deprecation of the severity of the tone which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had adopted in dealing with this Amendment. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that any Bill which came from the House of Lords should be received with great respect, but that did not preclude members of the Opposition from considering some of its details and suggesting improvements. Before the Chancellor of the Exchequer intervened, the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War had informed the Committee that knowledge was a necessary element in both these offences, and had said he was quite ready to accept the Amendment to introduce the word "knowingly" in the earlier part of the clause. If knowledge was a necessary element in each of these offences either it should be introduced in each case or else left out in each case, but to deliberately leave out "knowingly" in the earlier part and leave it in as applied to the other offence would cause confusion. He thought the Amendment was quite a reasonable one.

MR. ASQUITH said he was sorry if his tone had conveyed any want of respect. He thought there was the plainest possible distinction between the two cases. To omit the word suggested in this instance would be a most dangerous thing, although to insert it in the other case would not have been dangerous but unnecessary.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) suggested to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that in discussing the difference between knowledge as applied to the use of a forged or counterfeit statement, and knowledge as applied to the use of a mere statement that was false he had gone entirely astray. The Committee would find that this was so if they looked not at the legal jargon of the phrase but at the common sense application of the clause. What was the clause? It related to the case of a soldier or a sailor making use of a character or recommendation for his own purposes. It was perfectly obvious that a soldier or a sailor making use of a counterfeit document might do so *bona fide*. He might have been making use of a recommendation or a character which unfortunately had been forged in the way in which it was signed. They had made it an offence to make use of a document which actually was forged, although the man might be perfectly innocent, and not know that the document was signed in an irregular way. He now came to the case of a man making a false statement. The proposal was to leave out the words "to his knowledge." The Chancellor of the Exchequer had suggested that a man might put forward a false statement about his own character, and not know that it was false. Surely a man must know whether a statement about his character was right or not. It was perfectly redundant to retain the words. The words were wanted in the previous clause.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square) appealed to the Government to accept the Amendment. The arguments used on the Ministerial side in favour of the Bill were very peculiar. The Secretary of State for War had recommended the Bill because it was a Unionist Bill, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said it ought to be accepted because it came from the House of Lords. He knew that the Unionists were a weak minority, but that was no reason why they should be trampled upon in this way.

Amendment negatived.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

LORD R. CECIL said the offence of giving a false written statement as to character was a serious one, and he wished to know why it was made a summary jurisdiction offence.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lincolnshire, Horncastle) said a portion of the clause might have a deterrent effect upon recruiting for the Army. The previous Secretary of State for War made it a great point that the people recruited for the Army should be of the highest character, and hon. Members hoped that the present Secretary of State for War would carry out that excellent policy. It appeared to him that it was proposed to place a heavy fine on a man who, having been asked to give a certificate of character to a man wishing to join the Army, did not tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. He wished to know whether anyone would be liable to be haled before the magistrates and fined £20 if in giving a certificate of character to a man who desired to enter the Army he omitted to state that the person had been drunk some night and had not behaved himself properly. On the other hand, if the certificate stated that the man got drunk would the right hon. Gentleman still take him into the Army ?

Mr. HALDANE said the introduction of this clause did not amount to a new principle or policy. For years past it had been part of the law of the land that a person who made a false statement with respect to any person entering the Navy was liable to a penalty. It was absolutely essential that there should be something of the kind in the Army also. Fortunately, the kind of case mentioned by the noble Lord could not arise, because they had been successful in keeping in the words "to his knowledge." As to the necessity for the clause, he would mention a case which actually happened not long ago. It was illustrative of a long string of cases which he could mention. A man presented himself for enlistment, bringing with him a certificate of character to the effect that he had been in satisfactory circumstances for the last seven years. He was enlisted, but, getting into trouble afterwards, it was necessary for the police to inquire into his character. What turned out to be the truth was that the man had been in prison during the seven years. That character had been given to him by his brother-in-law, who wanted to get rid of him. What was asked for by this Bill was the necessary advantage of the rule that it was an offence for a man to give a false character knowing it to be false. That was the justification for this clause.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said that he did not understand whether this provision applied to any person seeking employment as a soldier or a sailor. Supposing a boy had been guilty of petty theft, and his master did not think it necessary to prosecute him, or the circumstances of sufficient importance to be included in the written character he might give the boy; and supposing in the course of a year or two that boy wished to enter the Army or Navy, was that master to be liable to the penalty specified in Clause 1 ?

Sir SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.) wished to know whether the auxiliary forces and the reserve were included in the phrase in Clause 2, "His Majesty's naval, military, or marine forces."

Mr. HALDANE was understood to say that they were.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that he concluded from the remarks of the Secretary of State for War that the Navy had already the powers provided in for this clause. He therefore suggested that the word "naval" should be left out.

Mr. HALDANE was understood to say that it was necessary to include "naval" in connection with false statements.

Lord R. CECIL asked what there was essentially wicked about giving a false character to a person who wanted to be a soldier or a sailor when there was no penalty of £20 inflicted upon a person who gave a false character to a man who was to be taken into civilian personal service ?

Mr. HALDANE said that the question of domestic service had already been covered by the old statute of 1762; but it had to be covered in regard to recruits for the Army or Navy. He had already quoted the case of a brother-in-law who gave a character to a man who had been seven years in prison.

Lord WILLOUGHBY de ERESBY said that that story did not really touch the point raised by his hon. friend. There was no getting over the fact that many men entered the Army who were not of an absolutely blameless character. If a man could not ask an individual or any member of his household to give him a character so as to allow him to get into the Army, it would tie his hands enormously. One might know that a man had a weak point, just as a man who wanted to sell a horse did not give away all its weak spots. But this man might be a most excellent man for the Army; and yet by this clause an employer such as he had described was to be liable to a penalty of £20 for not having told the whole truth about his former employee. He remembered the President of the Local Government Board making a speech in which he said that he did not think very much of these changes, and that he thought that in many instances some of the Arab boys about the streets would make better soldiers than the boys who attended the Sunday school every Sunday. If an employer or a friend were required to give a boy a character and to tell the whole truth about him, there would be found great difficulty in filling up certain regiments in the Army.

*MR. GEORGE FABER (York) said that the penalty in the first clause differed seriously from one part of the second clause. The first clause said that the penalty was imprisonment not exceeding one month or a fine not exceeding £20; and in the case of a second or subsequent offence imprisonment with or without hard labour, and a term not exceeding three months. But in the second clause the penalty was a fine of £20 with no alternative at all.

MR. HALDANE said that this was really the creation of a new offence which was not known at common law, and it was thought right to put the penalty under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 332; Noes, 73. (Division List No. 74.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faver, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick

Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy N.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh Alexander
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradfrd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman. Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clarke, Sir Edward (City London
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay. Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. G. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Charles Craig and Lord Willoughby de Eresby.

Clause 3 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

MR. **WILLIAM RUTHERFORD** said that in order to understand this clause it was necessary to refer to the Naval Enlistment Act of 1853. He was against the multiplying of manufactured offences. The hundreds of new offences set up by this present clause was only one illustration of how these offences could be multiplied. Under the Naval Enlistment Act of 1853, any person who sought to be enrolled by means of false statements was to be deemed a rogue and a vagabond within the meaning of another Act 5, George IV, cap 83. All the offences were taken out of that Act and were included in 16 and 17 Victoria, and the effect of passing this clause would be to make a man a rogue and a vagaband if he sought to be enrolled in the Naval Reserve by means of a statement not strictly true. What he wished to know was whether this clause extended to such bodies as the Naval Artillery Reserve of South Wales, and other bodies which were not regular but volunteer forces. If so, it was in his opinion a mistake. If the Navy and Army had been carried on successfully with regard to these matters for some hundreds of years, were not the Committee making a mistake in embodying in the statute a fresh set of penalties which were never known before and which were not required. This was a very serious question. In all the great ports of the Kingdom endeavours were being made to supplement the Regular Forces by enlisting voluntary service. If it was intended to penalise a man by making him a rogue and a vagabond because he endeavoured to get enrolled in the service by means of a statement not quite accurate, he thought it was carrying the authority too far and that Parliament should hesitate before it enforced these penalties on the voluntary services.

MR. **HALDANE** said the true use of this clause was this. People entered, with false characters, and by false statements, into the naval as into the military service. That matter was provided for by the special provision contained in Clause 16 of the old Naval Enlistment Act of 1853. But, comparatively recently, the somewhat surprising decision had been given that the penalties for entering the Navy by means of a false character or false statements did not apply to men entering the Naval Reserve. The old theory was to give a soldier or a sailor a long period of service and then pass him out of the service altogether. The present system was to give him a short term of service and then for him to enter the Reserve where he was kept sufficiently trained and was liable to be called out for service of the Crown if necessary. Under these conditions, and by being paid by the Crown, he was just as much in the service as if he were in the barracks or on board ship. It was decided that, as the Naval Reserve was the creature of statute and came into existence after the passing of the old Naval Enlistment Act of 1853, therefore, the man who got into the Naval Reserve by means of false statements could not be punished under that statute. It was owing to a technicality that that conclusion was come to, and this clause was inserted in order to enable a man entering the Reserve under such circumstances to be punished.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my question as to whether the provision applies to such bodies as the old Naval Artillery Reserve.

MR. HALDANE: Not unless they join the Reserve. The Army Reserve Act was an Act by which anybody could be enlisted in the Reserve whether they had been soldiers or not, and in fact many Volunteers were enlisted. It did not matter whether the men entering the Reserve had been Volunteers or old sailors. The question was whether they entered under the Naval Reserve Act.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (TRANSFER OF TREASURY POWERS) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

LORD BALCARRES said the House understood that the Orders of the Day were to be taken as they were set down on the Paper. He was not in order in going into that matter now, but there could be no doubt that the procedure now being adopted was in direct contravention of what they had been told by the Prime Minister, and therefore he begged leave to move to report progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Lord Balcarres*).

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said the Prime Minister stated yesterday that the Bills would be taken practically in the order in which they were on the Paper, and he (Mr. Whiteley) emphasised the fact when he moved the adjournment.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said that created a very considerable difficulty. A contentious Bill, or at any rate, one of very great substance, was put down to be taken and hon. Members were present in anticipation of a discussion. He was in the memory of the Committee when he said the Prime Minister stated that these Bills would be taken in the order in which they were on the Paper. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would now tell the Committee what departure he proposed to make from the statement of the Prime Minister.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said the right hon. Gentleman had no right to say there had been any departure from the undertaking of the Prime Minister. He would not allow the right hon. Gentleman or anybody else to say so. The Prime Minister said the Bills would be taken practically in the order on the Paper, and he had emphasised it in the evening by saying they would be taken in practically the same, though not the exact, order. The right hon. Gentleman had asked what Bills it was proposed to take today. He would tell him. (The hon. Member then read the Orders).

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he did not accept the rebuke of the hon. Gentleman. The Prime Minister made a statement which every human being in the House understood to be that the Bills would be taken in the order in which they appeared on the Paper.

Lord R. CECIL agreed with the right hon. Gentleman, and hoped the Motion would be pressed to a division. He did not understand the distinction that was drawn by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury between taking the Bills in their order and taking them "practically" in their order. What was the purpose of putting these Bills down in an order unless they were to be taken in that order? The Naval Prize Bill was of great importance, and they were prepared to discuss it now.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY said he had understood objection was being taken to one of the Scottish Bills being advanced a stage, and he was not aware that the objection was owing to the passing over of the Naval Prize Bill, which was in the hands of the Solicitor-General, who was ill and had had to go home. They were, therefore, missing the Bill out of the list, as well as the Marine Insurance Bill, which also was in the hands of the Solicitor-General. He regretted that the noble Lord the hon. Member for the Chorley Division did not make it clear that that was what he was objecting to.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said the Prime Minister gave a clear and definite pledge that Bills would be taken in the order on the Paper, and emphasised it by reading out the list of Bills, in which he named the Naval Prize Bill.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 77; Noes, 353. (Division List, No. 75.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.Sir AlexF.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon.J.(Birm.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F(Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,ArthurH. (Hants.,Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E.C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Starkey, John R.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Stanley Wilson and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert,(Eastbo'rne

Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J. T. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, Wlliam J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh Alexander
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts., Bassetlaw)
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncastr
Nolan, Joseph
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. S.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)

Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell, (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.
Robertson,Rt.Hon. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major, J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.O.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. E. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A.(Elgin and Nairn
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Woodhouse, SirJ.T.(Huddersfd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) moved to omit the words "except the London County Council." He said that he had put this Amendment down from a spirit of inquiry, because he felt that the Committee were entitled to some further information. This Bill was another example of legislation by reference, and he never saw a measure with so much reference and so little Act.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words 'except the London County Council.'"—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.*)

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) explained that whilst the Treasury desired to hand over to the Local Government Board all its powers with regard to other authorities, it made an exception in the case of the London County Council, because that body was a lending authority itself and advanced loans to other authorities in London. Therefore it was necessary that the Treasury should retain its statutory control in the case of the London County Council, although it was desirable that in the case of the other authorities they should come under the Local Government Board.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that the explanation of the hon. Gentleman would be satisfactory if it happened to be an explanation of the clause. As a matter of fact, it was obvious that the county council had no powers in regard to baths and washhouses, and inasmuch as the county council had no such powers, it was not necessary to transfer to the Local Government Board any powers in reference to the London County Council.

*Mr. CAVE pointed out that there were Acts of Parliament under which other county councils had power to borrow money and lend to minor authorities. If the London County Council was excepted the other county councils should be treated in the same way. He could not see why a special privilege should be given to the London County Council. He hoped some further explanation would be given.

Mr. McKENNA said the hon. and learned Member for the West Derby Division of Liverpool had omitted to remind the Committee that the powers exercised by the London County Council were under the control of the Local Government Board and did not enter into this Bill at all.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD asked whether it would not be better for the Minister in charge of the Bill to give some particulars of what the powers were. Was the Committee to be called upon to pass a section of such a sweeping character without any explanation? One of the powers was as to approving or not approving of the sale of real estate.

The CHAIRMAN said the London County Council was excepted.

Mr. RUTHERFORD: Exactly. He took it that except in the case of the London County Council the power was to be transferred to the Local Government Board. He asked why, in the name of all that was reasonable, powers were to be vested in the Local Government Board in regard to all the other authorities in the kingdom, while in the case of the London County Council similar powers were to be exercised by the Treasury.

*Colonel LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square) said he was sorry he could not agree with his hon. friends. Speaking as a former member of the London County Council, he thought there was nothing unreasonable in this clause. He, therefore, would not be able to support the Amendment.

*Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) said he had listened with astonishment to the remarks of the previous speaker. He could not understand why, whenever legislation was proposed in this House, the London County Council was made a special exception. He spoke as a novice, but not as a novice in county government. He had as much experience in county government as most right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. He thought he might make that claim, as he had been appointed an alderman in his county. That was an indication that, at any rate, he had done something to deserve the position. He objected to the London County Council being excepted, on the ground that it was perfectly obvious that the Treasury in the past had not exercised that amount of control over London County Council finance which it ought to have done. Therefore the sooner this power passed into the hands of the President of the Local Government Board the better. The right hon. Gentleman was one of the practical Members of the Government, and there was abundant reason why the Local Government Board should have complete control over purchases and sales of property by the London County Council. He spoke for Middlesex, a populous county which ought to have the same rights. What was good for the London County Council was good for the Middlesex County Council. Could any hon. Member say that the finances of the London County Council were in such a condition that the control of the Treasury should be any longer continued? If it was to the advantage of the bodies governed by Sub-section 1 to have the control transferred to the Local Government Board *a fortiori* it should be in the case of the London County Council, whose financial programme had been so lamentably disastrous from the point of view of the London ratepayer. When they considered the many speculations, and the enormous sum of money flung away annually in the promotion of hopeless Bills in Parliament and in opposing every conceivable kind of other Bills, he submitted that if any body ought to be under practical management it was the London County Council, which was the spendthrift of all local authorities.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON said that, seeing a number of Members of the London County Council among the hon. Members opposite, he was surprised that no one had risen to explain the reason which had led the Government to adopt the position they had done. He hoped some light would be thrown on the subject.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said he saw no reason why the London County Council should be treated differently from the other county councils in the country. No proper explanation of the powers to be conferred by the Bill on the London County Council had been given. The London ratepayers were daily being bled, and it was due to them that the strongest possible opposition should be offered to increased powers being given to the county council. He did not like to mention the words "steamboats," "Kingsway" and "Aldwych." Kingsway was beautiful, but it was one of the most useless streets London possessed.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the remarks of the hon. Member have any connection with the Amendment. I must ask him to speak to the Amendment.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said his remarks could be connected with the Amendment in this way. The Committee had not much information before them as to the powers sought to be given to the London County Council.

MR. McKENNA: No new powers are given to the London County Council. They are to remain exactly as they stand now.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said his contention was that for the purpose of endeavouring to curb the expenditure and horrible extravagance of the London County Council they should do all they could to carry this Amendment.

*MR. DICKINSON (St. Pancras, N.) said the London County Council performed some very useful services; but the newest of its services was that it enabled hon. Members on the other side to prolong the debates of the Imperial Parliament. It was rather a curious thing that the one member of the London County Council on the other side who knew anything about the subject at all had announced his intention of separating himself from his Party on this question. The London County Council with regard to its finances stood in a different position from that of any other county council, and for the very simple reason that all its dealings with capital came under the review of Parliament every year. Every year a Money Bill had to come before Parliament on which the whole of the council's actions with regard to finance were reviewed, and the Treasury very properly retained to itself the right to advise Parliament on the subject. If the Government had been ill-advised enough to include the London County Council in the Bill they would have had a very long debate indeed. He hoped with this explanation they might pass on to some matters of more Imperial concern.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) said he should not have intervened in the debate but for the speech of the hon. Member for North St. Pancras, which was absolutely uncalled for. He had made an attack on hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House who declined to fall down and worship the London County Council. He spoke, not as a member of that body, nor as an alderman of Middlesex, but as a business man and a lawyer. He wanted to know why the London County Council should be treated exceptionally as compared with other local authorities. He had grave doubts whether it was necessary at all to transfer these powers to the Local Government Board, but he should have thought if it was required anywhere, it was in the case of the London County Council. No one could doubt that, compared with any other local authority, the London County Council acted in a most extravagant way. Everyone knew perfectly well that in regard to their steamboat service there was a want of requisite supervision. He had heard no real reason given for treating the London County Council differently from other county councils. The only reason alleged was that the London County Council lent as well as borrowed money; but, not being a Member of a county council, he protested against this privilege being given to the London County

Council, which was in no way superior to any other county or district council.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea) said that the hon. Gentleman had fairly asked for, and was as fairly entitled to, some explanation as to why the Treasury differentiated between the London County Council and the other county councils. He would supply that information with pleasure. The size of London, its population, the large amount of money it had to borrow and to spend, differentiated it from the Metropolitan Asylums Board and the ordinary county councils. The London County Council had powers conferred upon it, derived from its predecessors, not only of spending money but of lending money to local authorities, such as the old vestries, the borough councils, the old school board, the Thames Conservancy, etc., under the sanction of the Treasury. Therefore, the London County Council was entitled to differential treatment. That power was clearly recognised by Mr. Ritchie in the 1888 Act; and the late Government brought in what was practically a replica of this very Bill, and if they had remained in office he believed that his hon. friend the late Secretary of the Treasury would have been doing exactly what his hon. friend the present Secretary of the Treasury was doing. It was only right that his hon. friend should explain what power Parliament had over the London County Council by virtue of its being a spending and a lending body. Every sum of money which it lent had to be embodied in a Bill which had to come within the purview of Parliament, and that Bill generally passed *sub silentio*. At any rate, he had never heard any discussion upon it. The Treasury had very frequently to put loans on the money market for £10,000,000 or £15,000,000 for Imperial purposes; and supposing such an Imperial loan to synchronise with a London County Council loan for a big drainage or tramway or waterworks scheme, the Treasury would not get its money as cheaply as it might do. These arrangements as to raising loans, moreover, were in the interest of sound finance, wise control, and honest administration by both the Treasury and the London County Council. He trusted that with good temper and the information he had been able to give to the Committee hon. Members would allow this Bill to pass.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) wished to take the opportunity of making an explanation. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board had said that he was responsible for the Bill of last year. In introducing that Bill he was only following in the footsteps of his predecessors since the year 1888. But last year the House was certainly informed that if the late Government attempted to press that Bill they would be met with the opposition of hon. Gentleman who were now supporting this Bill. At the same time he hoped that his hon. friend would not press his Motion.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON asked leave to withdraw his Amendment, but in doing so he wished to take exception to the remarks of hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial Benches.

Amendment, by leave, withdraw.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said that he was very pleased to hear that there was some compromise between the Treasury and the London County Council. There were many men who had a deep-rooted suspicion in regard to the expenditure of the London County Council; and he still maintained that the London County Council should not have exceptional powers conferred upon them which were not granted to Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and other great provincial cities.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman keeps on talking about the powers of the London County Council, but his Amendment has nothing whatever to do with the London County Council.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said he wished to put these towns on the same footing as London under the London County Council. That was why he moved that towns containing over 200,000 inhabitants should enjoy the same privileges through their council as were enjoyed by the London County Council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, after the word 'Council,' to insert the words 'or any Corporation of a town containing over two hundred thousand inhabitants.'"—(*Mr. Charles Craig.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he rose to a point of order. The hon. Gentleman proposed to remove certain powers from the Local Government Board, and he wished to know if the controlling authority was taken away from that body upon which body it would rest.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD submitted that that was not a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

MR. McKENNA said that the hon. Member had not understood the purport of the Bill. There were certain powers at present exercised by local authorities, and the sanctioning of those powers rested in nearly every case with the Local Government Board. There were certain exceptions to that rule, however, and in some few instances the sanction was given by the Treasury. The purpose of the Bill was to transfer from the Treasury to the Local Government Board the power of sanction in those exceptional cases, and the questions raised by the hon. Member as to the extravagance of local authorities and as to the misdeeds of the London County Council had nothing to do with the subject dealt with by the Bill. This Bill merely referred to the sanctioning of borrowing powers, and therefore all the questions raised by the hon. Member did not arise on this clause. He hoped that after that explanation hon. Members would allow them to have this very simple and very small Bill passed.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he wished to deal with this question from the point of view of such a place as Liverpool, where he had occupied the highest position that it was possible for a citizen to fill, namely that of Lord Mayor. This clause purported to hand over powers in respect of borrowing from the Treasury to the Local Government Board. [Cries of "No."] If the clause did not mean that it did not mean anything. He took it that if this clause was passed and if this Amendment was not adopted, in all these cases in which the City of Liverpool had now to go to the Treasury for their consent for whatever they wanted to do, they would have to go in future to the Local Government Board. The sanction in question was sometimes needed to enable the corporation to dispose of some property. It might be only two or three square yards in order to effect a public improvement. Sometimes, of course, however, it referred to the disposal of several acres. In each of these cases they now had to ask for the permission of the Treasury, and no property could be disposed of in fee simple without the consent of that body. He had challenged the Secretary of the Treasury to give an example of the way those powers were exercised, but he had not done so. His point was that as a matter of democratic fairness one authority should be treated in exactly the same way as another. They had 650,000 people in Liverpool, and with the exception of the County Council of London they had the chief municipality in England. Why, therefore, should they have their powers and jurisdiction summarily handed over under this clause from the Treasury to the Local Government Board; and why should the London County Council be expressly excluded from the provision? He submitted as a matter of fairness that the same exception should be made in regard to all other large municipalities. The Secretary of the Treasury had said that the London County Council was a lending authority. All the great authorities of the country were lending authorities, and in Liverpool they lent over £100,000 a year. He approached this question from a different standpoint from some of his hon. friends, and did not wish to throw any reproaches on the London County Council.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must not now talk about the London County Council. The question is not one referring to the London County Council, but is whether the words "or any corporation of a town containing over 200,000 inhabitants" shall be inserted.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said his only reason for mentioning the London County Council was that another city with which he had been connected for years was treated in an exceptional way, whereas his contention was that it ought to be treated in the same way and receive the same privileges, and they should not in a Bill of this sort single out one authority for absolutely exceptional treatment. If the provisions applied to the Metropolis were good, surely they were equally good for large and important and well-governed cities in other parts of the country. For these reasons he desired to support the Amendment.

MR. McKENNA said he wished to point out that the City of Liverpool was for these purposes under the Local Government Board.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that was exactly what he objected to.

MR. McKENNA said the hon. member might object to it, but this Amendment would not alter it. This Amendment proposed to except from the transfer of powers from the Treasury to the Local Government Board corporations of towns containing over 200,000 inhabitants. The truth was that those towns were already under the Local Government Board. Under the Local Government Act of 1888 there were certain exceptions, provisions in regard to which were left out by inadvertence, so that that Act did not apply to certain old local Acts, and it was in relation to those old local Acts and the provisions in regard to baths and washhouses and in regard to the Burial Acts that this Bill proposed to transfer the powers of the Treasury to the Local Government Board. The whole argument of hon. Members, although no doubt very valuable in itself, was based upon a misapprehension of the facts.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 67; Noes, 347. (Division List, No. 76.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.Sir Alex F
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hon.Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn, (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Coates, E.Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down,E.
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Dension (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mason, James F. (Windsor
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Bull and Mr. Charles Craig.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hon.Herbt. Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.

Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, J. A. (InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byes, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H- W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James, (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis, J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alexander
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)

Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Priestley, W.E. B.(Bradford,E
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashtonunder Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares Ernest J.,
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W.Dudley(South'mpton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A.(Elgin andNairn
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord(Norfolk,Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said he desired to omit the words referring to the Baths and Washhouses' Acts, partly in order to obtain information, and partly because it seemed to him that this was an instance of very careless drafting. He had gone to the trouble of investigating the Acts, and he found in Clause 9 of the Act of 1878, which was the Act governing the others, that the approval of the Local Government Board should be substituted for that of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury in all cases where money was borrowed for the purposes of the Act. It seemed to him, therefore, that these words were hardly necessary.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 8 and 9, to leave out the words 'the Baths and Washhouses Acts, 1846 to 1899.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. MCKENNA said the proposal here did not deal with powers regarding loans, but with other powers. The local authorities disliked very much having to go to different offices for practically the same purpose, and it was in the interests of the local authorities themselves that this provision was proposed.

MR. LANE-FOX asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. LANE-FOX moved to omit Sub-Section 2, which ran—

"Such power exercised before the passing of this Act by the Treasury or the Local Government Board shall be deemed to have been duly exercised."

That implied that certain powers had been exercised without authority, and the Committee required some explanation of this. Very considerable issues might rest upon the Sub-section, because if such powers had been illegally exercise, and they were found out later on, the local authorities might wish to take advantage of the illegality.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section (2) stand part of the Clause."

MR. McKENNA said he agreed that this clause also required some explanation. It was not known that any case had arisen, but the sub-section had been introduced for the security of local authorities. Powers having been exercised sometimes by the Treasury and sometimes by the Local Government Board, it was conceivable that there might be cases in which the local authority had not received proper sanction. It was not known that such cases existed, but as an act of indemnity to the local authorities this clause had been inserted.

LORD BALCARRES said it was very remarkable that the hon. and learned Gentleman was unable to tell the Committee that there were any cases of illegality which had made the insertion of this sub-section necessary. It was apparently a roving commission. It made him very suspicious; of course, he did not mean it in any offensive way, but he could not see why the sub-section should be put in. He thought it would be a dangerous precedent to insert in an Act of Parliament an indemnity for certain offences which in the opinion of the responsible Minister had never actually taken place.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said that if there had been no error committed clearly the sub-section was not wanted. If there had been any illegality then this sub-section might interfere with the rights of private persons who were not present to be heard. If there were a real case of hardship brought before the House it might be met by a bill of indemnity. But to legislate in the dark was entirely new; if not new, it was time it should be stopped.

MR. McKENNA did not think that by the course they were pursuing hon. Members opposite were acting in the interests of local authorities, who might have done acts under the sanction of the Local Government Board when they should have had the sanction of the Treasury, and under the sanction of the Treasury when they should have had the sanction of the Local Government Board. This Bill was a measure dealing with the transfer of these powers from one authority to another. In order to relieve local authorities from anxiety in these matters he hoped the Committee would pass this sub-section.

LORD HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said he could not see the force of the hon. Member's argument. Surely there was another point to be considered, namely, whether it was likely that such cases would occur when they had such watchful offices as the Treasury and the Local Government Board. It was rather a reflection upon the work both of the Local Government Board and of the Treasury to contemplate that, under the very able officials of those Departments, sanction had been given to proposals of local authorities when, as a matter of fact, under Act of Parliament they had no right to give that sanction.

MR. LANE-FOX said that after the unsatisfactory explanation which had been given he could not withdraw his Amendment. This was a wrong form of legislation, and they were simply legislating in the dark.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 298; Noes, 37. (Division List, No. 77.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.

Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams(Devonp'r
Benn, W.(T'w'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsden, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grints'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dolan, CharlesJoseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas

Evans, Samuel, T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Halsam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul.
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas

Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.

Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hon. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Cave and Mr. Lane-Fox.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved an Amendment to leave out Sub-section 3. He pointed out that the Committee, by adopting Sub-section 2, had determined that all acts done before the passing of this Bill by the Treasury or by the Local Government Board should not be capable of being questioned as to irregularity. It was right, therefore, that the Committee should consider the circumstances under which this clause would be applicable. If any question arose as to its applicability it would arise in a Court of Justice, and he could imagine a case in which the Court of Appeal might be asked to determine whether this particular Act applied to the conditions referred to in some other Act or Acts. He had in the course of the last few minutes made a computation, and he found that the enactments referred to by this sub-section amounted to several hundreds. All kinds of questions were bound to arise from time to time in regard to matters that would hardly appear at first sight to have a direct connection with the subject matter of such a sub-section as this. It was proposed under this perfectly new clause to substitute for the Courts of Law the Treasury as the judicial authority which was to give an absolute decision without any appeal, and without any provision for the case being argued on either side. It struck him that this proposal was absurd, mischievous, and novel from almost any point of view.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present.

House counted and forty Members being found present,

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that of all the clauses he had seen in the different Acts they had to deal with this was about the most astonishing. He thought the only sensible thing the Committee could do was to leave out Sub-section 3.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

MERSEY RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

(BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. VIVIAN (Birkenhead), in moving the rejection of the Bill, explained that the special objection of the Birkenhead Corporation was to Clause 5, which empowered the company to run motor-omnibuses within the borough of Birkenhead. There were two aspects of this question—the special and local aspect, and the general aspect of the application of this principle to similar companies throughout the country. With regard to the purely local aspect, this company had not been in a good way since it was established, and the Birkenhead Corporation had had considerable difficulty in getting some of the liabilities of the company met. In the Bill empowering the company to act, Parliament allotted the corporation £50,000 compensation for the injury done to the ferry service of that body, and of that sum £20,000 only was paid, and they had to take the remainder in five per cent. debentures which, however, made no return. They agreed to the reduction to three per cent., but not even that was forthcoming, and it practically meant that Birkenhead had lost the best part of £30,000 on that transaction. Since that time, in order to grapple with the necessities of the increasing population, Birkenhead had spent £300,000 on their trams, and there was not a point in Birkenhead that was more than a quarter of a mile from a tram route. Therefore public convenience in no way demanded the facility which the railway company now sought. Further, Birkenhead streets were already sufficiently congested. There was no petition from Birkenhead in favour of this clause and there was no demand for it. There was not even any evidence to show that these motor omnibuses were desired by people in Birkenhead. Under such circumstances he thought due consideration should be given to the attitude of the corporation whose views he was presenting. With regard to the general argument on this matter, it was not desirable for the House without very careful consideration to confer powers indiscriminately on existing monopolies to run their motor omnibuses all over the public roads. On general grounds competition was not objected to, but the indiscriminate conferring of these powers would ultimately lead not to healthy competition, but merely to an extension of the existing monopoly of a great railway company which, like other railway companies, had means of utilising its power really to the detriment of healthy competition. He was supported in his argument by the fact that the most important corporations in the country took the same view, and therefore he asked the House to adopt the Resolution standing in his name.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he had been asked by the Tramways Committee of the Corporation of Sheffield to second the Resolution proposed by the hon. Member for Birkenhead. The Corporation of Sheffield feared if these powers were granted to monopolies of this character it might form a precedent for future Bills. They had in Sheffield a very complete system of tramways, thirty-five or thirty-six miles in length, upon which the corporation had spent very nearly a million and a quarter of money. It would be an injustice to them if an outside body like a railway company were allowed to come in and run motor omnibuses in competition with them, and to run those omnibuses not only to and from the stations, but to catch the general traffic, picking up and setting down in the streets. He did not know that there would be so much objection to their running to and from their own stations simply, but that was not the point. Here the railway company wanted to run in competition with the local authority. In support of his argument he would quote the following Resolution passed by the Municipal Tramways Conference some time ago—

"That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that the omnibus clauses in the Railway Bills now before Parliament should be deleted from those Bills so far as regards running omnibuses by the railway companies in any city, borough or district in which the local authority runs or works tramways, and that all practicable steps be taken with a view to bringing about this result."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Vivian.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport) said he did not propose to deal with the merits or demerits of the Bill. He understood that the principle which was sought to be established by this debate was that where tramways were municipally owned they should be exempt from competition by railway-owned omnibuses. If the House rejected this Bill now, however, they would be withholding consideration of the matter from the properly constituted authority that the House had set up, viz., the Select Committee. Before that Committee all interests could be considered, and he thought that it would be contrary to the best interests of Parliament if they came to a final decision on the Bill now. He might point out that this Bill had been before a Committee in another place and that they had not objected to it. Surely it was not for the House of Commons to say on a matter of this kind that they would decide the Bill upon the Second Reading and hold that it should not go upstairs. His advice was that the Bill should be read a second time and sent to a Committee. He had no bias in the matter and held no brief either for the Bill or against it, and it was his duty as a representative of the Board of Trade to put before the House that very simple proposal.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he could not support his hon. friend who moved the total rejection of the Bill, and he should advise him to withdraw that Motion and to proceed with his instruction to the Committee to delete the objectionable clause. In his opinion, Parliament having imposed certain conditions upon tramway promoters in connection with the powers conferred upon them, and the tramway companies having spent large sums of money in providing accommodation for the district, railway companies should not be given unrestricted power of competition and afforded facilities for running motor-buses without specifying where the working was to begin or end. Moreover, the money which the railway company would have to spend upon this project was raised for other purposes. He thought that it was not a businesslike proceeding on the part of the House to sanction such competition. While he did not object to legitimate competition, he did say that such action would not be fair on the part of the House. For these reasons he thought the House ought not to allow this kind of clause to be put in Railway Bills, although he admitted that in country districts, where no accommodation had been authorised by Parliament, it might be right that such powers should be given to railway companies. But he thought that care should be taken that in Railway Bills this power was confined to districts in which Parliament had not already authorised tramways

*MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) said that perhaps the House would allow him to say a word or two on this Bill, because he was thoroughly familiar with all the local circumstances. This was not the case of a rich railway company, but it was the case of a struggling company, who wished to improve the connection between the two sides of the River Mersey. The company had never paid a dividend, and their line was simply a tunnel between the two sides of the River Mersey. Both the ferry and the tunnel were doing good work between Liverpool and Birkenhead. The subject of these motor omnibuses which were now in question was one upon which there had been a good deal of difference of opinion. The railway company wished to improve the through traffic, and began to run omnibuses in connection with their trains; but the Birkenhead Corporation stepped in, and there was litigation. The corporation sought to restrain the railway company from running these omnibuses which they regarded as competing with their steamers and trams. It was not quite true to say that the Birkenhead Corporation were altogether unanimous against the Mersey Railway Company. Many people in Birkenhead thought that it would be a great advantage if the tunnel connection was improved, and extended by the use of motor omnibuses. There were, however, some people in Birkenhead, and although he was not a property owner in the borough he sympathised with their view, who thought that the running of motor omnibuses in certain out-lying portions of Birkenhead would have the effect of depreciating the value of property. What he wanted to say, however, was that opinion in Birkenhead was so divided that he thought the Bill ought certainly not to be rejected upon imperfect information. While he objected to the total rejection of the Bill, he objected also to the proposed instruction to the Committee with reference to this particular omnibus clause. He thought the whole matter ought to be considered in the usual way by a Committee upstairs, and that the House would make a great mistake if they accepted either the Motion for the rejection or the proposed instruction.

*MR. VIVIAN inquired whether, in the event of his withdrawing his Motion for the rejection of the Bill, he could move his instruction.

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that course will be open to the hon. Member.

*MR. VIVIAN said in that case he would wish to withdraw his Motion for the rejection of the Bill and move his instruction.

*MR. SPEAKER: Is it your pleasure that the Motion be withdrawn? [Cries of "No."]

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) doubted very much whether the House ought to permit the withdrawal of the Amendment, which it was obvious would not succeed, in order to allow the hon. Member to take another course. The Amendment was deliberately intended to stop the Bill, and a beat up had been made to obtain Members to support it, but now when it was obvious that it could not succeed the hon. Member wished to withdraw it and move an instruction. It was clear, however, as the Secretary to the Board of Trade had said, that a discussion in the House upon a question of this kind must be a very perfunctory one. Moreover, hon. Members who had been dining and had not heard the debate would, without a sufficient knowledge of the question, be called upon to decide it. The practice was to send Bills of this kind to Committees upstairs, and he thought such proceedings as had been taken in regard to this Bill should not be encouraged. He protested against the attempt which had been made to prevent this Bill going to a Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to; Bill read a second time, and committed.

*MR. VIVIAN said he now desired to move the instruction that stood in his name. All the arguments that had been used in the previous discussion were practically the same as he would use in moving this Resolution, and under those circumstances he would not detain the House but formally move the instruction.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland) formally seconded the Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to leave out Clause 5 of the Bill."—(*Mr. Vivian.*)

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS said the contentions which had been suggested in regard to this particular clause were not such as ought, in his opinion, to weigh with the House. It was said that this monopoly interfered with that which the corporation possessed. That was to say that one species of monopoly was to be urged as against the setting up of another species of monopoly. The hon. Member had attacked the monopoly of the railway on the ground that the monopoly of the corporation should be maintained. He (Mr. Cross) did not address himself to the consideration of this Bill from the point of view of any monopoly whatever. The question to his mind was how this was going to serve the public in the matter of the transport of passengers. He did not think the case of a monopoly could be made out. If the contention of hon. Gentlemen opposite was that this railway came to Parliament for powers to start a service of motor buses to compete with the cars in the city they were mistaken.

*MR. VIVIAN said that as a matter of fact these buses had been running in the heart of the city.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS said that hon. Members opposite seemed to regard Birkenhead as a busy and populous place, but he did not regard it as such a busy place as to make this a serious matter. He regarded Birkenhead as simply a suburb of Liverpool.

MR. SUMMERBELL: Have you ever been there?

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS said there were two questions which he wished to ask the House to consider. This was a matter of competition to serve the public. It was a competition between the railway and the tramway. He understood that the ferry to Birkenhead belonged to the Corporation of Liverpool and there they kept up a very good service of tramways. He understood that they did not own the ferry at Seacombe, and because they did not own it they gave no such efficient service of tramways. Then the railway came along and tunnelled below the river and, having got to the other side, asked for those facilities which a corporation ought to give both to railways and to steamers. Every attempt was made to prevent the giving of those facilities. Then came the invention of motor buses, and they asked leave to put on a service of those buses through the tunnel. This was not allowed. Something was said about the noise they made, but the real reason why the facility was not given was that these buses would enter into competition with the tramways owned by the corporation. But the corporation having entered into a trading competition must, he submitted, take the consequences of the competition. Notwithstanding the fact that tramways trenched upon the monopolies of railways, the House had sanctioned the construction of tramways and would continue to do so. This new system of motor buses had come along, which was far better than the system of tramways. Tramways were costly to construct, and when they were constructed the trams could only go in certain directions, whereas motor buses were cheaper to construct, could move in and out the traffic, and could be taken off one route if it was found not to pay and put upon another. To say that because this system was going to trench upon another monopoly it should not be established was absurd. He asked the House to look at this Bill from the point of view of the interest not of the corporation, but of the public. The history of the Committees of Parliament had always led one to the conclusion that it was the public interest that was regarded. If a man wanted an impartial and careful tribunal that tribunal was to be found in a Committee of the other place. He said that without fear of contradiction. Next to that he put the Committees of this House. Though we might alter the system we should never get more impartial tribunals. This Bill had to fight its battle there, and the battle it would have to fight was not whether it was going to trespass or touch another monopoly, but whether it was going to serve the public. The Bill was to open up a new route and to deposit men at their own doors, and the opposition to it was an attempt to stop the progress and prevent the development of science to which the public were entitled. He hoped, on the ground that this was really a defence of a monopoly, a thing which this House always resented, and upon the ground that this House was not a tribunal which could decide the merits of the case, the instruction would be rejected, and the Bill allowed to go complete to the Committee upstairs.

Mr. HARWOOD (Bolton) said he was sure that this was a matter for the House and not for a Committee to decide. There were many cases which were matters for instruction, but this was not a matter of that kind, because it was a matter of principle which would apply to many other cases. Therefore it was a matter which this House could and ought to settle. The case as to mutilation put forward by the hon. Gentleman was mere nonsense. Then it was said that the question ought not to be decided by a few Members while other Members were dining, but that was exactly the way the business of the House was done. All its business was done while some were dining and smoking and others were talking. If every one came and talked in the House, no business at all would be done. It was the providential way in which some Members stayed away that enabled business to be transacted. These matters had been before Parliament before. The feeling of the House was expressed in the North Eastern Cables Bill which came back from a Committee without that having been done which the House thought ought to have been done. This Bill had been before another assembly, but the fact that they had let it go through made the House of Commons still more afraid. There were two places where it had gone through, and therefore this House should make a stand. To say that a Committee should settle this great principle was not a proper thing. They were right to raise the question of principle, and this was the place in which to raise it. His hon. friend had made out that it was a case of free competition. If they were going to adopt that principle they should adopt it all round; but did railway companies submit themselves to free competition? This House might say they were in favour of free competition for everybody, and it might be fair and logical, but that was not the policy on which they acted. They were constantly giving monopolies, and they were bound in honour to guard this policy if it fulfilled the conditions unless they took up another policy. If they had it in the tramways let them have it in the railways as well. Parliament had encouraged the municipalities to spend money on this enterprise. Could they now open the floodgates of free competition whilst it guarded the railway companies? If they were going to break down the safeguard of Parliament, and, after encouraging these communities to spend the money of the ratepayers in giving facilities for communication, expose them to the open competition of a rich body of monopolists whose monopoly would be guarded, the House would put itself in a very ridiculous position. The House ought to say quite distinctly that whilst it did not interfere with the ordinary freedom of a Committee, this was a point of principle on which it was not only justified but compelled to give an instruction as to the line that ought to be taken.

Mr. WALLACE (Perth) said the speech of his hon. friend who had just sat down illustrated the inconvenience of dealing with a question like this in the House itself. The most contradictory statements had been made on both sides without the slightest opportunity for Members to investigate the truth. It would be a monstrous thing to reject the Bill, four-fifths of which was unopposed, because of this one clause. The hon. Member for Bolton had talked about destroying a monopoly which the House of Commons had created. His hon. friend could not be aware of the facts of the case. There was no proposal to enter into competition with the tramways ["Yes" and "No."] Those interruptions showed the futility of the House trying to decide a question of this sort. Hon. Members were being asked to act judiciously without the slightest knowledge of the facts. They ought not on *ex parte* statements to reject a Bill which might be of the utmost importance to the public at large. This Bill had been before the House of Lords, and a Committee of the House of Lords had unanimously recommended that the clause in question should be passed. If this House began without evidence to reject clauses which had been passed by the other House there was a process of retaliation which might be employed by the House of Lords in regard to Bills passed by this House. Although he admitted that his statement, like that of others, was an *ex parte* statement he would give his version of this case. As he understood, this was an attempt by the Corporation of Birkenhead to thwart the wishes not of a railway company merely, but of Liverpool and district. There was no proposal to give to the Mersey Railway any monopoly of any kind. There was nothing to prevent the Corporation of Birkenhead from carrying tramways along the same route as the motor buses. It was an attempt by the Corporation of Birkenhead to refuse facilities to the people of Liverpool to get out into the country by quicker and more convenient means than by the Corporation's own ferry boats. The Corporation of Birkenhead were acting the policy of the dog in the manger by refusing to lay down tram-lines themselves along the routes which would serve the people. His version might not be correct. His argument, however, was that the only way to get at the truth was to send the Bill to an impartial tribunal like a Select Committee. His hon. friend had said that these 'buses might go roving to Birkenhead in competition with the tramways of the Corporation. Nothing of the kind. They were restricted as to their routes, and if further safeguards were required the Committee upstairs could insert them so as to protect every interest, and to ensure that the 'buses were only used for the purpose for which they were desired to be brought into existenee. He strongly urged upon the House to stand by some fixed procedure, and not to get into the habit of allowing partisans on every side to make statements without there being any opportunity to investigate them; but to send such Bills to an impartial Committee. Even if the Committee reported in favour of the clause, the House would be entitled to reject the recommendation and decide for itself.

*Mr. W. H. LEVER (Cheshire, Wirral), speaking as the representative of the Wirral District Council, said that that body were strongly opposed to these motor omnibuses.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) said they had heard a good deal about monopolies, but what monopoly was there in this Bill? It merely sought to give the Mersey Railway power to run motor omnibuses, and that was not a monopoly. The measure did not prevent Birkenhead seeking to get similar powers in the same district. They were merely asked to give this railway company the right to run motor 'buses wherever they were suitable and to extend the Mersey railway, which had been one of the greatest boons to Birkenhead and Liverpool. Perhaps the House was not aware of it, but it was a fact that neither the shareholders nor the debenture holders in this railway had had any return for the money which had been spent and which had given great advantages to the two cities of Birkenhead and Liverpool. At present there was no possible means of any person going from Liverpool into Cheshire except by the ferries and the tramways of the Birkenhead Corporation. Now the Mersey Railway desired to tap that district by going underneath and giving facilities for the people of Liverpool to go under the river. They desired to increase these facilities by taking their motor omnibuses through Birkenhead and out into the pretty country surrounding it. The Corporation of Birkenhead were dictating to the people of Liverpool and were saying, "We will not allow you to have those facilities, and we will stop you on the way, and we will ask for the monopoly ourselves in order to keep in our hands entirely this means of communication." He resided in the Birkenhead district himself, and as an inhabitant he should be sorry to see the motor buses coming into his locality, but as an unselfish man, and as one who thought that other people should have access to the beauties of nature as well as himself, he objected to barriers being placed in the way of free access from one place to another, whether by municipalities or anyone else. He could not understand the action of the hon. Member who had moved this Instruction, for he was a gentleman who talked about the liberty of the subject, and now he was standing in the way of the enjoyment of the people of Liverpool and supporting the monopoly which the Corporation of Birkenhead was trying to set up. He trusted the ordinary rule would be followed and that this Bill would be sent to a Committee where all sides could be heard in order that justice might be done.

*MR. BEALE (Ayrshire, S.) said that this Bill involved a point which would certainly be raised in other localities in connection with similar undertakings. The clause referred to conveying passengers and passengers' luggage generally, and there were no words in the clause confining its operation to passengers and passengers' luggage in connection with transit on this railway. There was all the difference in the world between giving companies further facilities with reference to their own traffic, and allowing them to enter into the business of carrying passengers and luggage inside the region where some other company or corporation was already engaged in the carrying trade. As no such restrictive words as he had mentioned had been put into this clause he thought the Committee ought to be plainly instructed that these motor-bus facilities should be limited to transit in connection with the railway. Subject to that limitation he should be very sorry to see any impediment put in the way of the Committee considering and deciding upon the facts.

*Mr. MORTON (Sutherland) said he wished to enter his protest against the doctrine laid down by the hon. Member for Perth that they must not consider these Bills on their Second Readings. That was one of the few rights which were left to Members in this House. He hoped independent Members would not listen to such special pleading but do what was right to their constituencies and pass, amend, or reject as they thought fit these Bills on their Second Reading.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 199; Noes, 108. (Division List No. 78.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.Sir Alex.F
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, W. (T'wrHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold.
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Gawlay
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fullerton, Hugh
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford,E.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards,T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Robinson, S.
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Toulmin, George
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Vivian and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beauchamp, E.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig,CaptainJames(Down, E.)
Crossley William J.
Davies,David(Montgomery Co.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Doughty, Sir Geo.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Glendinning, R. G.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haddock, George R.
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Jackson, R. S.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lever,A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Micking, Major G.
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Rees, J. D.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seaverns, J. H.
Sheehy, David
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Tomkinson, James
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, Col. W. H.(Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (South'mptn
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Hudd'rsf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Wallace and Mr. Alexander Cross.

WIRRAL RAILWAY (EXTENSION OF TIME) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. SPEAKER asked whether the hon. Member for the Wirral Division of Cheshire intended to oppose the Bill

*MR. W. H. LEVER said he did.

*MR. SPEAKER: Then it cannot be taken now.

Second Reading deferred till to-morrow.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (TRANSFER OF TREASURY POWERS) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he had no desire to add any observations to those he had already made in support of his Amendment to omit Sub-section 3.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out subsection (3)."—(*Mr. Watson Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section (3) stand part of the clause."

THE CHAIRMAN rose and was proceeding to put the Question to the Committee, when

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD, interrupting, said he hoped that before the vote was taken a reply would be given on behalf of the Government. He had refrained from repeating his questions and arguments with the object of saving the time of the Committee. He hoped the Financial Secretary of the Treasury would take the opportunity of giving the Committee the explanations to which they were entitled.

MR. McKENNA said that he did not consider the hon. Member had meant the Committee to take his argument seriously—[OPPOSITION cries of "Oh, oh!"]—but if he had been mistaken, he would endeavour to reply to the argument. The hon. Gentleman's statement was to the effect that if any question arose on this clause, instead of its being taken to an ordinary Court of Law, a new authority, viz., the Treasury, would be called in to decide the point. The hypothesis upon which the hon. Member had based his argument against the clause was altogether illusory, and the result which he had described could not arise. The class of case which would arise would be between a local authority and the Local Government Board or the Treasury, and the Treasury would be the deciding authority in the dispute.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that the hon. and learned Gentleman had hardly been fair to him in reference to his Amendment, and the observations he was obliged to make upon it. He took objection to the clause seriously, and not from imaginary reasons. He thought that a discussion of a clause in such a Bill which might bear different interpretations would be useful. As a matter of fact, between 300 and 400 Acts of Parliament could be dealt with under this sub-section. He could put a case to the hon. and learned Member which would show that the difficulty to which he referred was not imaginary. Let the Committee suppose a question arose as to a sale of land in Liverpool, the Corporation of Liverpool could not dispose of any of that land without the consent of the Treasury, which consent could only be obtained by presenting a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury. But as he understood this Bill, that consent, instead of being obtained from the Lords of the Treasury would in future be obtained from the Local Government Board. That, he believed, might involve expensive litigation as to whether the

Treasury or the Local Government Board had consented to the sale. He thought the Clause most objectionable, and he strongly opposed it.

Question put.

Committee divided :—Ayes, 303 ; Noes, 47. (Division List, No. 79.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Black,Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin,Charles Ramsay(Galw'y
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alexander
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.

Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsfld
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George N.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Remnant, James Farquharson
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Bull and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time and passed.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS (STAMP DUTY).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of a Stamp Duty of Five pounds on Certificates of Registration in the case of Alkali Works and of Three pounds in the case of any other Work in pursuance of any Act of the present session to consolidate and amend the Alkali, &c., Works Regulation Acts, 1881 and 1892, and the payment out of moneys provided by Parliament, of salaries and remuneration and of expenses incurred in the execution of such Act.—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Resolution to be reported to-morrow.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

Amendments proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'discharge,' to insert the words 'whether directly or indirectly.'"

"In page 1, line 23, and page 2, line 1, to leave out the words 'whether directly or by a chimney or other outlet.'"

"In page 2, line 6, after the word 'other,' to insert the word 'final.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 agreed to.

Clause 7:—

Amendments proposed—

"In page 4, line 14, after the word 'discharge,' to insert the words 'whether directly or indirectly.'"

"In page 4, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'whether directly or by a chimney or other outlet.'"

"In page 4, line 21, after the word 'other,' to insert the word 'final.'"

"In page 4, line 26, after the word 'other' to insert the word 'final.'"—(*Mr. John Burns.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8:—

Amendments proposed—

"In page 4, line 41, after the word 'works,' to insert the words 'or in any works in which sulphide ores, including regulus, are calcined or smelted (hereinafter called "smelting works").'"

"In page 5, line 9, after the word 'cement works,' to insert the words 'or smelting works.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Stanley.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 postponed.

Clauses 11 to 31 agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (No. 2) BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [7th May], "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-seven minutes after Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 16th May, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [Lords]; Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Pontefract Corporation Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment) Bill. Report [15th May] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

Cork and Waterford Railways Bill. Reported [Parties do not proceed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Bishopwearmouth (two); Brighouse (two); Bromsgrove; Ferryhill (two); Great and Little Packington; Hackney; Linton in Craven; London (nine); New Radford; Packington; Pallion (two); Wearmouth; Worcester; and Wormleighton; to lie upon the Table.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Worsley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION BILL.

Petition from Westminster, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ASSESSMENT OF REAL ESTATE ON THE BASIS OF ITS MARKET VALUE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 3rd May; *Mr. Runciman*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 173.]

POLLING DISTRICTS (WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire, constituting Polling Districts and assigning Polling Places thereto [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS).

Account presented, of the Fee Fund of the House of Lords from 1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3587 and 3588 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COMPENSATION (LICENSING).

Address for "Return of the amounts levied for Compensation, under the Licensing Act, in each county and county borough during the year 1905."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Naval Volunteers—Officers' Uniform Grants.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney, Shetland): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he is now able to make a statement regarding the request that naval Volunteer officers should be placed in the same position as land Volunteer officers in the matter of assistance towards uniforms.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I hope to be able to make a statement on this subject next week.

Uig (Lewis) Valuation Roll.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that out of 670 persons on the valuation roll for the parish of Uig, Island of Lewis, no less than 546 have no vote for school board elections, by reason of their rentals being less than £4 ; and will he take such steps as may be necessary to extend the school board franchise to all persons entitled to vote at Parliamentary and county council elections.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) Pending the issue of the Return referred to in my Answer to his Question of March 26th, I can express no opinion as to the correctness of the figures quoted by the hon. Member. The question of the school board franchise is one to be dealt with in a general Education Bill for Scotland.

Land Sales in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) : To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the total number of applications for sale of estates to tenants in county Longford that have been lodged up to March 31st, 1906, with the Estates Commissioners ; how many sales have been sanctioned ; and in how many cases inspection has been ordered.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the numbers are fifty-five, thirty-seven, and forty-six respectively.

Tredennick Bog.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.) : To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the bog bailiff on the Tredennick estate, in county Roscommon, poisoned the bog which surround the lands of about 250 tenants ; that he gave neither notice or warning ; and will he take steps to prevent such action in the future.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the police authorities that the local police are aware that a rumour to the effect mentioned in the Question has been current in the locality, but that they have been unable to discover any foundation in fact for this rumour.

County Poor Rate Collectors.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the provisions of the County Poor Rate Collectors Order, 1899 ; whether the qualification and disqualifications prescribed in Article 8 of that Order applied to county or Poor Law officers before the year 1898 ; whether some doubt has not arisen as to the legality of this Order ; and whether he will cause the Order to be withdrawn with a view to the reconsideration of its provisions.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) My attention has been called to the provisions of the County Poor Rate Collectors' Order, 1899. The qualifications and disqualifications prescribed in Article 8 were created by the Order and are now embodied in the Public Bodies Order of 1904. Previous to the date of the first-named Order the appointment of all officers of the guardians was subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, who refused their sanction when they thought it necessary to do so. I understand that some doubts have been suggested as to the legality of the Order, and I have invited the opinions of the Law Officers on the subject. It would be impossible to withdraw the Order without considering generally the provisions of this and other similar Orders, and such light as is thrown by the provisions of the law in England, and without at the same time considering what provisions should be included in any Order or Orders to be made in substitution for the existing Orders. These matters will be considered.

Belfast Police.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, W.) : To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what is the entire population of the north-west police district of Belfast, and the number of Protestants and Roman Catholics comprising the population ; how many head constables, acting sergeants, and constables are stationed in Leopold Street Barracks, Belfast ; how many are Roman Catholics and Protestants respectively ; and will he take steps to have more Protestant police in this district consistent with the population.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The population of the district referred to is approximately 76,000, of whom 65,000 are Protestants and 11,000 Roman Catholics.

The police force at Leopold Street barracks consists of one head constable, five sergeants, one acting sergeant, and twenty six constables, total thirty-three. Of these, the head constable, three sergeants, the acting sergeant, and ten constables, total fifteen, are Roman Catholics; and two sergeants and sixteen constables, total eighteen, are Protestants. The Inspector-General informs me that he cannot undertake to consider the question of religion in connection with the allocation of men to stations.

Freemount National Schools, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in reference to the accidental burning of the Freemount National Schools, county Cork, if he can explain the delay in preparing the plans for repair of the old schools; is he aware that school work is at present being carried on in a barn and shed, and that these premises are available only until August next; and whether, in view of these circumstances, the Commissioners of National Education will expedite, as much as possible, the completion of the plans and commencement of the work of properly repairing these schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the delay was partly due to the fact that it was necessary to obtain special Reports on the case from their inspector and the Board of Works. The Commissioners understand that the school work is at present being carried on in two temporary buildings roofed with corrugated iron. The Commissioners have made a proposal for a grant towards the cost of restoring the schoolhouse, and this proposal is under the consideration of the Irish Government and the Treasury. There will, I trust, be no undue delay in coming to a decision in the matter.

Crofters Acts Amendment Bill.

MR. R. L. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he can state when it is proposed to introduce the Crofter Bill referred to in the King's Speech.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) No definite statement as to date can be made at present.

Cost of Education.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): To ask the President of the Board of Education what was the total cost of education in England and Wales in 1901–2 under the school board; what proportion was borne by the Imperial Exchequer and what proportion by the ratepayers; what was the cost in 1903–4, 1904–5, and 1905–6; what proportion came from the Imperial Exchequer and what proportion from the ratepayers; what was the total cost on capital account for school buildings and loans; and what was paid for interest and sinking fund, or redemption of loans, in each of those years.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Understanding that the concluding phrase of the first paragraph is intended to limit the purview of the Question to elementary education, the reply is as follows, omitting the expenditure of the Board of Education on its own administration and inspection:—(1) The total recorded expenditure on elementary education in England and Wales in 1901–2 was approximately £16,901,276. This included £8,949,650 from Exchequer and Parliamentary grants, £6,508,297 from school board rates, £876,361 from voluntary subscriptions, and £566,968 from other sources, *e.g.*, endowments, fees, etc. But this total does not include any expenditure on voluntary school buildings, for which reliable figures do not exist, while it does include school board expenditure on buildings in the shape of interest, sinking fund, and repayment of principal, though not the loans themselves; (2) The year 1903–4 was largely transitional in character, and even approximately accurate figures cannot be given; (3) In 1904–5 the transitional character continues, and complete reliable figures are difficult to give. But it may be estimated approximately that the total expenditure on elementary education from public funds was about £19,379,653, allowing rough additions to compensate for incomplete periods. This includes £9,874,364 from Exchequer and Parliamentary grants, £8,762,625 from local rates, and £742,664 from other local sources, such as fees, endowments, etc. Voluntary subscriptions for annual maintenance had, of course, ceased. Expenditure from voluntary subscriptions upon buildings, and also upon "managers' purposes" under the Education Act of 1902, are not included in this, as figures are not available, but the total does include interest, sinking fund and repayment of principal in respect of council schools, though not the loans themselves; (4) Complete figures for 905–6 do not at present exist. According to calculations based upon estimates recently collected from local authorities, it is believed that about £20,891,135 will have been expended from public funds on elementary education for the year 1905–6. Of this sum about £10,682,935 is from Parliamentary grants, about £9,909,255 from local rates, and £298,945 from other sources, such as endowments, fees, etc. Voluntary subscriptions and expenditure upon voluntary school buildings being excluded just as for the previous year, while interest, sinking fund, and repayment of principal in respect of council school buildings are included; (5) As regards school buildings and loans, no information is available in respect of voluntary schools, whether before or since 1902. As regards local rates in respect of board schools, the total amount spent in 1901–2 in respect of interest, sinking fund, and repayment of principal was £2,022,306. (This is exclusive of the moneys spent in that year on capital account, from loans, of £2,386,291, which is not included in the total given in paragraph (1) above); (6) In 1904–5, so far as can be estimated, about £2,263,604 was spent in respect of interest, sinking fund, and repayment of principal as regards council schools, while for 1905–6 it is roughly estimated that the amount will have been about £2,396,891. The amount of the actual loan or capital charges in each of these years for council schools is not known, nor any of the expenditure on voluntary school buildings; (7) But it must be clearly understood that all the figures given above for the years 1904–6 are rough calculations, and that no accurate figures are yet obtainable.

Swansea County Court Offices.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that complaints are being made by suitors and their solicitors as to the inadequacy of the Swansea district registry and county court offices; and whether he will take steps to inquire whether such complaints are well founded.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) A representation has been received, and the Treasury is in communication with the First Commissioner of Works on the subject.

Irish Public Servants' Half-Holidays.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that in the Post Office, Revenue, and several other public Departments, a weekly half-holiday is granted to the members of the clerical staffs; and, in view of the further consideration which he has promised to give this matter, can he now state if arrangements will be made by which this privilege may be extended to the clerical staffs of all public departments on the same conditions on which a fortnightly half-holiday is at present granted.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am sure that in some Departments half-holidays are more frequently granted than in others; but the privilege is in all cases dependent upon the state of business, and I do not see my way to make any general change in the existing regulations.

Irish Civil Service Appointments.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the Ridley Commission of 1889, which inquired into Civil Service appointments, recommended scales of salary for positions above the rank of Second Division, namely, the scale of £200 to £500 as suitable for the majority of such appointments; whether the Treasury accepted these recommendations; and whether he will urge the adoption of this scale for future appointments in Irish Departments, and have the present salaries adjusted to this scale instead of allowing them to be settled on personal grounds.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Treasury did not think it desirable to establish the absolute uniformity of scale recommended by the Royal Commission. I see no reason for any change in the scales in force which have been settled both in Irish and English Departments according to their several requirements.

Fatalities in Belfast Industries.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can give the number of accidents, fatal and non-fatal respectively, which occurred during the past five years in the shipbuilding, engineering, and flaxspinning industries respectively, in Belfast; and the total amount of compensation paid in respect thereof under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I regret that I have not and cannot obtain information as to the total amount of compensation paid in respect of accidents in Belfast in the industries mentioned, nor would it be possible without much time and labour to give the number of accidents in those trades in Belfast alone.

Friendly Societies and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if any friendly societies registered in England, Scotland, Ireland, or Wales have a rule deducting part of benefit from members being in receipt of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act; and, if so, can he give the names of the societies.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies informs me that he has not seen any such rule in the rules of any registered friendly society.

Vehicular Accidents in London.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY (Lancashire, Ormskirk): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of accidents in the London area during the month of April last caused by horse-drawn vehicles; in how many instances have personal injuries resulted; and in how many cases have such injuries proved fatal.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The number of accidents reported by the police to have been caused within the Metropolitan Police district during the month of April by horse-drawn vehicles is: by horse-drawn omnibuses, 265, forty-seven of which resulted in personal injury and one in death. By other horse-drawn vehicles, 2,233, 643 of which resulted in personal injury and ten in death.

Madame D'Angely.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who ordered the shadowing of Monsieur and Madame D'Angely.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I cannot now discuss this matter. The whole question of the police action in the case will be brought fully before the Royal Commission when it is appointed.

Mr. Brock's Studio on Primrose Hill.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether his attention has been called to the objection in the neighbourhood to the erection of a studio for Mr. Brock, R.A., on Primrose Hill; whether he will state what are the height, length, and breadth of the proposed building; and whether the dimensions were indicated on the plan to which he gave his approval, and on the strength of which he considers that the building in question is not likely to injure the surrounding scenery.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) My attention has been drawn to this building, the site for which was determined under the late Government. The dimensions of the building are: height to eaves, 25 feet; breadth, 50 feet; length, 100 feet; and appeared upon the plan approved by me. The building will be removed as soon as Mr. Brock's work on the Queen Victoria Memorial is completed. I will endeavour by some external decoration to make the building as little unsightly as possible.

Trade Waters in Public Sewers.

SIR JAMES KITSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Colne Valley): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he intends, at an early date, to promote general legislation dealing with the question of the reception of trade waters into the public sewers; if not, will he otherwise deal with this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) This matter could only be dealt with by legislation. The subject is receiving my consideration, but I could not hold out any expectation of being able to introduce a Bill with regard to it during the present Session.

West of England Telephone Service.

MR. DUNN (Cornwall, Camborne): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware of the delays that are constantly occurring in trunk telephone calls from London to Exeter, Plymouth, and other places in the West of England; that, quite apart from special delays, it often takes two or more hours to get calls through; that the reason given by the authorities is the absence of a direct line beyond Bristol; and whether prompt steps will be taken to provide a direct line or in some other way to put an end to the existing state of affairs.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) A trunk telephone circuit between London and Exeter is in course of construction, in order to provide a more direct means of communication between London and the Devonshire and Cornish towns than at present exists. The delay is, however, not so much due to the want of this direct line as to the non-completion, owing to the difficulties of obtaining wayleaves, of a trunk circuit between London and Bristol which was commenced two years ago. The work is now, however, being pushed on. The delay does not, as a rule, exceed an hour and, pending the completion of the new circuits, every endeavour is being made to give as good a service as possible.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the block of promotion now existing in certain ranks of the Royal Army Medical Corps, as a result of which no promotions of warrant officers to the rank of quartermaster have been made since 1902, although fourteen vacancies have occurred during that period (all such vacancies having been absorbed): and whether, with a view to mitigating the resulting hardship to senior warrant officers of the corps, he will consider the advisability of absorbing in future alternate vacancies only until the ordinary flow of promotion is restored.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The block of promotion in the senior ranks of the corps, which arose from the number of promotions made during the war, was very thoroughly considered in the early part of last year. The remedy proposed in the Question was one of the many suggestions which were put forward, but it was found that inequalities of treatment of individual cases would arise therefrom, and on this account it was advisedly rejected.

Metropolitan Police Commission.

MR. ASHLEY: To ask the Prime Minister whether he will communicate to the House the terms of reference to the proposed Commission on the Metropolitan Police; whether any opportunity will be afforded the House of considering the names of the Commissioners; and when the Bill will be introduced.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) The terms of reference have already been indicated in the statement made by me on Monday last; the names of the Commissioners appointed will be included in the Bill which will be introduced at the earliest possible moment.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE (City of London): To ask the Prime Minister if he will enlarge the reference to the Royal Commission proposed to be appointed, so as to include the consideration of the condition and defects of the present laws with reference to drunkenness and solicitation in public places, as well as of the duties of the police in relation thereto.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) The Royal Commission will be appointed to inquire into the administration of the existing law, and to make any recommendations thereon. It will not be charged with the duty of making recommendations for the Amendment of the law, and I do not see my way to enlarge the terms of reference in the sense suggested in the Question. At the same time the Commissioners will not be precluded from calling attention to any defects as arising in their opinion from the existing state of the law.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Colonial Garrisons.

Mr. COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the annual cost of the troops stationed in Ceylon, Hong Kong, and in the Straits Settlements, respectively; and what is the amount of the annual contribution received from each of these Colonies.

I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the annual cost of the troops stationed in the West Indies; and what is the amount of the annual contribution received from the West Indian Colonies.

*The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire, E.): The figures for 1904–5 are as follows:—

	Cost.	Colonial Contribution.
Ceylon	£217,003	£156,718
Hong Kong (including North China and Wei-hai-Wei.)	£598,691	£119,659
Straits Settlements	£245,647	£208,713
West Indies	£365,354	No contribution.

Indian and Egyptian Armies.

Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the average annual strength of the British Armies in Egypt and India during the twenty years 1881 to 1900 was approximately 69,751; if the total number of cases of small-pox amongst these men was 1,149, and the number of deaths from small-pox was 113; if all these men were vaccinated when they joined the Army or subsequently; and having regard to the fact that in the Indian and Egyptian Armies during the years 1901 to 1904 the case fatality from small-pox was nearly 13 per cent., when all the cases were those of vaccinated men, and that in Leicester, where there is a large unvaccinated population, the case fatality was only 4 per cent., he will cause an inquiry to be made into the circumstances attending this failure of vaccination to protect His Majesty's Army.

Mr. BUCHANAN: The Secretary of State answered a similar Question of my hon. friend on Monday on this subject, and I have nothing to add to the Answer he then gave.†

The Natal Rising.

Mr. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that under the administration of martial law in Natal the Commandant of Militia has empowered the officer in charge of Leuchar's Field Force to inflict thirty lashes with the cat upon any person refusing to give information to any member of his force, vide Blue-book, Enclosure 2, in No. 30, and whether the Home Government has sanctioned such methods; and whether he intends to make any representations on the subject to the authorities in Natal.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): The officer in command of the field force has no such powers conferred upon him as are stated in the hon. Member's Question. Courts of a magistrate, or special courts-martial, have power after due trial and conviction to punish with lashes refusals to give information, but all cases tried by court-martial must be immediately reported to the Colonel-Commandant, and if more than thirty lashes are awarded confirmation of the sentence is necessary. The Secretary of State does not intend to make representations on the subject to the authorities in Natal.

Mr. MYER: But is this in accordance with what is laid down in the Blue-book which I have in my hands?

Mr. CHURCHILL said he had no doubt whatever that in framing the Answer the Secretary of State had the fullest cognisance of the Blue-book.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) asked whether, in view of the odium attaching to a spy, it was advisable to hold courts-martial on those who refused to play the part of spies.

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† See Col. 157.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Will the Government make representations to the Natal authorities against permitting this form of lashing of persons, against whom no form of crime is alleged.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I will make inquiries as to the points mentioned by the hon. Members, and if a Question is put on the Paper I hope to be able to answer it on Monday.

Mr. MYER asked whether the hon. Member's attention had been called to the statement that if any individual "refuses to give information to any member of your force he may be sentenced to receive thirty lashes for refusing."

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have nothing to add to the Answer I have already given to the hon. Member.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked whether the procedure had not the sanction of the Governor of Natal, and therefore presumably of the House.

[No Answer was returned.]

*Mr. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government have any official information from Natal to the effect that Colonel M'Kenzie's force, operating against the natives, had burnt many kraals and secured and divided much loot; whether Colonel M'Kenzie's force is composed in part of native levies; and whether he can say if any burning of kraals or destruction of property was confined to cases of military necessity, in accordance with No. 12 of the Rules published in Appendix I. of the Blue-book [Cd. 2905].

Mr. CHURCHILL: I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer given by me yesterday to a similar Question,† addressed to me by the hon. Member for Woodstock, in which I indicated that the information in the possession of the Secretary of State does not support the belief that any destruction of kraals or property will take place except as being justified on the ground of military necessity. The Secretary of State has no information as to loot having been divided among Colonel M'Kenzie's force.

*Mr. LEHMANN: Will the hon. Gentleman make inquiries?

Mr. BYLES (Salford, N.): We want an assurance that these seizures are not divided amongst soldiers.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that, from his recollection of the general appearance of a Kaffir kraal, he did not suppose that loot found there would be worth dividing among Europeans. As to what might have been done by native auxiliaries he had no information.

*Mr. LEHMANN: But are we not responsible for the acts of our native auxiliaries?

Mr. BYLES: Surely thousands of cattle and sheep have some value?

Mr. CHURCHILL: In regard to captures of stock made by the column operating in the field, I understand that the stock has been sold and the receipts paid into the Natal Treasury as some off-set against the very large sums of money which the Natal Government have been forced to pay for the purpose of carrying on the operations.

Mr. BYLES: Cannot you give the House the assurance I have asked for?

Mr. CHURCHILL: I will make further inquiries if the hon. Member wishes.

Chinese Coolie Repatriation.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state the number of Chinese employed in the mines of the Transvaal on the date of posting the repatriation notices; and how many coolies, since the promulgation of those notices, have made application for repatriation.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The number of coolies on the Rand on the date mentioned was about 50,000. I have not yet received information as to the numbers who have applied for repatriation.

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† See Col. 351.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Is the recent proclamation now in force?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir, certainly.

MR. LONSDALE: Will the hon. Member take steps to inform himself of the number?

MR. CHURCHILL: His Majesty's Government have carefully and closely watched the results of the proclamation which has been issued on their authority, and to which they attach great importance. But it is premature at the present moment to judge of the results. In about ten days it will be possible to judge of the effect.

Control of Chinese Coolies.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the question of the better controlling of the Chinese coolies employed on the Transvaal gold mines; whether the proposals submitted involve further restrictions on the liberty of the coolies; and what action His Majesty's Government has taken and proposes to take in the matter.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg also to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what action it is proposed to take to carry out the recommendations of the Commission appointed to consider measures for the better control of Chinese miners on the Rand; and whether those recommendations include a system of guarding mine boundaries, the erection of wire fences, the strengthening of European guards, and other such measures.

MR. CHURCHILL: Lord Selborne has informed the Secretary of State that copies of the Report of the Commission referred to are on their way to this country. One of the recommendations of the majority of the Committee is that wire fences should be erected round the mine premises to prevent egress of coolies except at gates where watchmen would be posted to see that the coolies leaving bounds were possessed of the necessary permit. Until the Report is actually before us it would be premature to form any final opinion of its proposals. But His Majesty's Government, while recognising the importance of preserving peace and order on the Witwatersrand, will not be readily disposed to concur in unusual devices in restraint of ordinary liberty. It would appear that the need of such devices might easily be removed by the provision of a more adequate police force; and there seem good reasons to support an opinion that the charges incidental to any such increase in the police force ought properly to be borne by the importers of that class of indentured labour which alone renders the increase necessary.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): Arising out of that question, may I ask the hon. Gentleman whether the Secretary of State is aware that 1,850 more Chinese coolies have just arrived at Durban on their way to the Transvaal, and whether in view of the admitted inability of the Transvaal Government to protect British subjects from the outrages of the Chinese already on the Rand, he will decline to allow this large additional importation of coolies to take place.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the facts stated by the hon. Member. The policy of His Majesty's Government upon this question has been explained to and accepted by Parliament. That policy, as the hon. Member is certainly aware, did not contemplate the cancellation of any of the 16,000 licences which had been issued previous to the change of Ministry in December last. His Majesty's Government cannot at any time repudiate definite promises or undertakings which they have made. Still less would it be wise to make changes in a policy deliberately adopted pending the grant of self-government, when the period of delay may be said to be drawing to its close.

Straits Settlements Harbour Improvement Scheme.

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements have recently authorised an outlay exceeding £1,000,000 sterling on the first part of an extensive harbour improvement scheme; and that such scheme has been and is opposed by the local trading community, including the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, and by the non-official members of the Legislative Council, on the ground that the present and prospective trade of the country do not, in their view, warrant the expenditure; and whether, in view of such opposition, he will arrange to send out some perfectly independent person to examine and report upon the matter, and, pending such Report, will direct that the proposed works be not proceeded with.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is aware that the scheme in question has been approved by the Legislative Council. The Singapore Chamber of Commerce has in the past made representations against the construction of the proposed works, but the Secretary of State is not satisfied that such representations can be taken as embodying the wishes of the trading community in this matter. The Legislative Council voted unanimously in favour of the expenditure, all the unofficial members being present, except those who represent Penang, and Lord Elgin can see no reason for further delay in the construction of a work which is being undertaken upon high expert's authority and after prolonged consideration both here and in Singapore.

West African Garrisons.

MR. COX: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the annual cost charged upon Votes submitted to Parliament for the Military Forces stationed in the West African Colonies.

MR. CHURCHILL: So far as Colonial troops are concerned, there is no charge upon Votes of Parliament for military forces in the West African Colonies, except that indirectly a portion of the cost of the Northern Nigeria Regiment is defrayed by means of the grant in aid of the revenue of Northern Nigeria. As to the cost of the Imperial troops stationed in Sierra Leone, I must refer the hon. Member to the War Office.

Land Settlement in the Transvaal.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, what amount now remains unexpended of the £3,000,000 sterling allocated to land settlement in South Africa from the £35,000,000 loan.

MR. CHURCHILL: Up to February 26th last a total sum of £2,351,924 had been issued from the loan for land settlement out of £2,500,000 voted for that purpose. As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, £500,000 has not yet been voted, owing to the fact that there has been excess expenditure under other heads of the loan.

Tibetan Indemnity.

*SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the convention between Great Britain and China, which was signed at Pekin on April 27th, provides for the payment by China of the Tibetan indemnity of Rs.250,000 to the Indian Government.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): The Tibetan indemnity is not mentioned in the Convention in question.

Germany and the Island of Laut.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he has any information as to the acquisition by Germany of the island of Laut at the south-eastern extremity of Borneo, and as to arrangements now in progress for establishing there a re-victualling station and a point of observation for German warships.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Sir EDWARD GREY): His Majesty's Government are informed that there is no truth in the report of Germany having acquired the island of Laut or any portion of it, or of any station or post of observation for German men-of-war being established there.

Chinese Customs Edict.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any reply has been received from the Chinese Government to the note presented on Saturday, demanding a satisfactory assurance that the Customs Edict, issued on Wednesday last, meant no interference with or alteration in the administration of the Chinese Maritime Customs as at present constituted; and, if so, whether he will state the terms of that reply to the House.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Sir EDWARD GREY): No reply has yet been received.

Germany and British South West Africa.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether communications have passed between His Majesty's Government and the German Government respecting an alleged violation of the British frontier in South West Africa by German troops in pursuit of the insurgent leader Morenga; and whether any, and, if so, what, explanations have been afforded of the occurrence.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Sir EDWARD GREY): The German Chargé d'Affaires informed me on the 14th instant that a German Officer had pursued some insurgents over the British frontier, and that fighting had taken place on British territory. The Chargé d'Affaires stated that the German Government entirely disapproved of this, that it was contrary to instructions, and that they would take steps to prevent its recurrence. The House will no doubt appreciate, as His Majesty's Government have done, both the terms of this communication and the fact that it was made before any explanation had been asked for.

Cost of Repatriating Coolies to China.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can now give an estimate of the expenditure out of the Exchequer in consequence of the operation of the repatriation order now in force in the Transvaal; whether he has made provision for this expenditure in the Budget; and whether an opportunity will be given in Supply this session for discussing directly this expenditure which has been authorised by His Majesty's Government.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): It will be impossible to make any estimate until it becomes evident to what extent the Chinese are likely to avail themselves of the offer which has been made to them. No special provision has been made in the Budget, but, if and when it becomes necessary to ask the House to sanction any expenditure for the purpose, full opportunity will be given for discussion.

Income-Tax.

MR. HAZLETON (Galway, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, seeing that, according to the Income Tax Returns for the year 1903–4, there are only 2,913 persons in the United Kingdom, out of an estimated population of 41,600,091, with annual incomes of £2,000 and upwards, he will grant a Return giving the names and addresses of these 2,913 persons, with a view to the exposure of the frauds practised by some of the other persons whose names should appear in the list.

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. Member appears to have derived his figures from the first Table in the Return of Income Tax Assessments recently published, No. 102 of 1906. These figures do not warrant the inference he has drawn from them, as the Table does not purport to relate to the whole body of income-tax payers in the United Kingdom, but only to such as are assessed under Schedule D. Even of these the figures quoted relate to a fraction only, viz., that fraction which consists of individuals as distinct from members of firms and companies.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth) suggested that fuller returns should be issued to prevent such questions being asked. [Cries of "Order, order."]

Christian Scientists.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the practices of certain persons styling themselves Christian Scientists; and whether, with the view of preventing danger to the lives of credulous persons by these practitioners, he will take measures, by legislation or otherwise, to prevent them from carrying on their practices.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The law with regard to these practices will probably be further elucidated by the proceedings in the case of the Christian Scientist who has recently been charged with manslaughter in respect of the late Major Whyte. Till these proceedings are concluded I can express no opinion on the subject.

Inland Post Cards.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that inland postcards are sold at their face value in every Colony of the Empire and in every country of the world except our own; whether he is aware that a profit is made out of the stationery of postcards in Great Britain and Ireland; and whether he will undertake to sell postcards at their face value in the United Kingdom on an early date.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): It is true that postcards are sold at their face value in British Colonies and in most foreign countries, and that a small profit is made on the stationery of inland postcards sold in this country. I recently considered the question of selling postcards at their face value, but I came to the conclusion that the other reforms which have been, or are being introduced, would be of greater advantage to the public and should take precedence.

French Money Order Fees.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the cost of a money order for 5s. from France to England is 1d.; and that the cost of a money order from England to France for 5s. is 4d.; and, seeing that the French Government make a profit out of this transaction, will he reduce the rate to the same as from France.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The British rate for an order not exceeding £1 payable abroad is to be reduced on July 1st next to 3d. I am not aware that the French authorities make a profit on the orders described.

Tyneside Telephone Service.

MR. H. J. CRAIG (Tynemouth): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is prepared to consider the desirability of improving the telephonic facilities between the various boroughs on Tyneside by readjusting some of the geographical limits which at present operate unequally between neighbouring districts.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The limits of the existing telephone exchange areas were settled under the agreement between the Post Office and the National Telephone Company under which the trunk lines were transferred to the Post Office in 1896. It would be difficult to readjust these limits without disturbing the existing relations between the systems of the Post Office and the National Telephone Company as well as the Company's contracts with their subscribers. I will, however, carefully consider any particular case in which an alteration may be desired, if brought to my attention.

Canadian Newspaper Postal Rates.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has been in consultation with the Postmaster-General of Canada with regard to the possibility of devising some special arrangement to lower the postal rates on newspapers between England and the Dominion; and, if so, with what result.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am not in a position to make any statement on this subject.

Private Postcards—Charges for Printing Stamps.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General on what grounds does he charge, for printing stamps on private postcards, a higher rate than for stamps on other documents; will he explain why he does not print stamps on private postcards free of charge beyond the cost of the stamps; and whether he is aware that no charge whatever is made in the Colonies of the Empire for printing stamps on stationers' postcards beyond the cost of the stamps.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): A charge for printing stamps on private postcards is made because of the additional cost that is involved in the production of such stamps as compared with the cost of a corresponding quantity of adhesive postage stamps. The fee charged by the Inland Revenue Department for printing stamps of the class in question is 1s. for every 1,000 stamps and any fraction of that number. As regards the latter part of the Question, it is understood that it is only in a few Colonies that such printing is undertaken without charge; that in the majority of the Colonies it is not undertaken at all; and that in one of the principal Colonies of the Empire a charge is made for the work of 5s. per 1,000 stamps for large quantities, and of 8s. per 1,000 for smaller quantities.

The Education Bill—Facilities for Religious Instruction.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, when ordinary facilities for special religious instruction are given in a public elementary school, Clause 3 of the Education Bill is intended to direct that such instruction shall be given in the school house; and, if so, how will the cost of warming and other incidental expenses be apportioned between the local education authority and the trustees of the school.

I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Education whether Clause 7, Sub-section (1), of the Education Bill is intended to prevent a teacher, employed in a public elementary school in which ordinary facilities are afforded, from being present during the time allotted to special religious instruction for the purpose of maintaining discipline.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): It is impossible to discuss satisfactorily the details of the Bill in a reply to a Question. There will be an opportunity for discussing the points in the Committee Stage of the Bill.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can now state when the Return of the syllabus of religious instruction at present in force in each local education area will be in the hands of Members; and whether he will undertake that it shall be circulated previous to the consideration of the Education Bill in Committee.

MR. BIRRELL: It is impossible to say when the Return will be available. Circulars asking the local authorities for the information have been issued from the Board of Education; and the date of the completion of the Return must depend largely upon the expedition with which local authorities send in their replies. The volume, however, cannot but be an exceedingly bulky one, and will necessarily take a considerable time to compile and to print, so that it will be quite impossible to delay the Committee Stage of the Bill as proposed by the hon. Member.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): The right hon. Gentleman held out some hope in answer to another Question that some of this information could be given at once.

MR. BIRRELL: I am very anxious to give it as soon as I get a sufficient number of answers. I have an interesting collection of my own which I shall be happy to show any hon. Member.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY: Will you undertake to postpone the clauses connected with this matter?

MR. BIRRELL: No, Sir.

Minor Local Education Authorities.

*MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he will state the number of minor local education authorities within the area of which not more than one public elementary school is situated; the total number of such schools connected with each denomination or classed as provided schools; and the number of children in average attendance at each class of schools in such single-school areas.

MR. BIRRELL: The numbers asked for have not been worked out and will take some time to arrive at. I am having the matter looked into, and will give the hon. Member the information he asks for if he will repeat his Question on Monday.

West Bromwich Electric Car Fatality.

DR. HAZEL (West Bromwich): I beg to ask the President of the Board of

Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the evidence given at the inquest held on the body of a girl named Emily Beatrice Millington, who was run over and killed by an electric tramcar at West Bromwich on May 5th, in which it is shown that more than half an hour elapsed before the tramcar could be lifted and the girl extricated, and that this delay was due to the lack of any suitable lifting appliance; whether he is aware that similar delays in extricating injured persons have occurred from the same cause in connection with other similar accidents on this and neighbouring tramway systems; and whether, with a view to prevent such occurrences in the future, he will take steps, by legislation or otherwise, to make compulsory the carrying of hydraulic lifting-jacks on all electric, steam, and cable tramcars.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): The Board of Trade have received a report of the fatal accident referred to in my hon. friend's Question. It appears that the child suddenly ran in front of the car and that the wheel passed over her killing her instantly. The Board of Trade have not hitherto considered the necessity of recommending that all cars should carry lifting-jacks, but it is their intention to hold an inquiry into this accident, and this special point will be carefully considered.

Butter Adulteration.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the attention of the Board has been drawn to certain prosecutions for butter adulteration that have taken place in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and to certain evidence as to the cause of adulteration given therein; and whether the Board propose to take any steps to inquire into the facts in dispute.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): The circumstances of the cases referred to have received our careful attention and we agree that further inquiry is desirable. We are in communication with the local authority on the subject.

Fishermen's Feu Charters.

MR. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he has received further information regarding the conditions on which numbers of fishermen's houses are held; and, if so, what steps he proposes taking to remedy the grievance.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I am informed that the conditions have materially changed since the date of Sheriff Guthrie Smith's Report and that on most estates feu charters are given to fishermen who apply for them. No complaints of hardship have reached me, but I shall be glad to inquire into any instances of grievance to which the hon. Member may direct my attention.

White Abbey Assault Case.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of Samuel Millar, who was tried and convicted at the White Abbey petty sessions on the 10th instant for assault; whether, seeing the solicitor for the defendant was unable to be present at the outset of the case, and witnesses for the defendant were not examined, he will explain why application for adjournment was refused by the magistrates; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): I am informed that the magistrates, at the request of a representative of the defendant's solicitor, postponed the hearing of the case in question until they had disposed of all the remaining cases before them. The solicitor having then failed to appear, the case was heard, and several witnesses for the defence were examined. I have no power to interfere with the judicial action taken by magistrates.

Roxborough Road School, Limerick.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can state at what amount did the Educational Endowments Commission assess the value of the Roxborough Road school buildings; and was that valuation confirmed on appeal by the Privy Council of Ireland.

MR. CHERRY: The hon. Member will find full information on the subject of this Question at page 6 of the Final Report of the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Commission, 1894.

MR. JOYCE: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give me the information here?

MR. CHERRY: The Report is available to everybody.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can now state who is the tenant of Roxborough Road schools, Limerick, at present; is there any public trust attaching to this tenancy; is a school carried on in these premises; and is it a condition of admission to it that the child must thenceforth profess the Protestant religion.

MR. CHERRY: The Commissioners of Education after their last meeting informed me that the present tenants of the Roxborough Road school premises are the Misses Gregg, the executors of the very rev. Dean Gregg, the late tenant; and that they do not hold under any trust. The next meeting of the Commissioners will be held on the 24th instant, and in the meantime I am unable to obtain information upon the concluding inquiries of the Question.

MR. JOYCE: May I ask whether, in view of the education policy which the Government are carrying to such lengths in England, something cannot be done to protect the rights of the Limerick local authorities.

MR. CHERRY: That is not a Question I can answer now.

Irish Land Act—Colonel Smythe's Gaybrook Estate.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will the Estates Commissioners refuse to advance money to Colonel Smythe, of Gaybrook, Westmeath, in respect of any one part of his property, while on another part, not yet before the Commissioners, an evicted tenant has been obliged, in order to get restored, to borrow money to pay the landlord rent accruing on the farm while vacant, and must ask a grant from the Commissioners in such circumstances that the grant would in effect be made to the landlord.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that they will, before sanctioning advances in this case, consider the report of their inspector on the matters referred to.

Town Tenancies in County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in respect to a number of weekly and monthly tenancies in Kanturk and other towns in county Cork the landlords have refused to adjust the tenants' rents, as provided by the Local Government Act, and have been receiving the old rents, whilst the tenants owing to non-fixity of tenure are compelled to pay the old rents and are responsible for the rates; whether he will introduce some amendment in the rating system with a view to compel such landlords to pay the standard rate as provided in the Act; whether he is aware that in a number of these cases, owing to the poverty of the tenants, these rates cannot be recovered from them, and that representations have been made to the Local Government Board by several county councils drawing attention to the amount of irrecoverable arrears which accrue in this manner from time to time since the passing of the Local Government Act.

MR. BRYCE: The Local Government Board have no information to the effect stated in the first part of the Question. It may, however, be pointed out that the provision in the Local Government Act of 1898 as to the adjustment of rent between occupiers and landlords applies only in the case of tenancies which existed on the 1st April, 1899. I stated, in reply to a Question of the hon. Member for West Cavan on the 4th April,† the reasons why I am not prepared to introduce legislation to amend the rating system. It is, I am informed, the fact that in a number of cases poverty is alleged as the cause of the non-collection of rates, and representations to that effect have been received by the Board from local authorities.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 476.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Cork county council has lost several thousands of pounds owing to the operation of this system which was introduced against the wishes of the Irish representatives of the time?

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware of that. The subject is a very complicated one.

Estates Commissioners and Sales within the Zones.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland do the Estates Commissioners hold that they have no discretion as regards price when they find that a purchasing tenant has been despoiled of money and means under writs for arrears of rent, that the price has been calculated upon that rent, that it is within the zones, that the agreement was signed in that condition of embarrassment, and that owing to the high price and the purchaser's want of means they would not sanction the transaction if free from the compulsion of the zones.

MR. BRYCE: My right hon. and learned friend has already informed the hon. Member that if a holding which is held under a judicial tenancy is included in lands declared by the Estates Commissioners to be an "estate" for the purposes of the Act, then, provided the price comes within the zones, the Commissioners hold that they have no discretion as to the price, and are bound to make the advance. If, however, the purchasing tenant should allege that the agreement was entered into under duress, and the Commissioners should find such to be the fact, they will, in the exercise of their powers, refuse to act upon the agreement.

Dromagh Evicted Tenants.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in reference to the estate of Mr. W. N. Leader, Dromagh, county Cork, whether the Estates Commissioners can now state what steps have been taken to secure the reinstatement of the evicted tenants, Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Cronin, with the least possible delay; is he aware that the originating application for the sale was lodged in June, 1905; that the holdings are vacant, and the landlord agrees to the reinstatement of one tenant and the placing of the other on a holding of equivalent value; that the Commissioners undertook some time ago to send an inspector to the estate; whether the Estates Commissioners will arrange, without further delay, for the replacing of these tenants on the lands before the entire transaction of sale and purchase is concluded; and whether an inspector will be sent to inquire into the possibility of acquiring the whole or portion of the untenanted lands now in the landlord's possession, with a view to purchase same for dividing them amongst other deserving evicted tenants and the labourers of the district.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they intend shortly to send one of the recently-appointed inspectors to inquire into the cases of these evicted tenants. In the meantime they are not in a position to deal with the matters referred to in the Question.

Hungerford and Clorahn Evicted Tenants.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in the matter of the Hungerford and Clorahn estate, barony Duhallow, county Cork, whether he is aware that repeated applications have been made to the Estates Commissioners for the reinstatement of two evicted tenants, James Reen and Goffrey Reen, but no reply has been received beyond a mere acknowledgment of the application; and whether, in view of the fact that a sale of the estate is pending, that the landlord offers no objection to reinstatement, and that the present occupant is willing to surrender the holdings on receiving reasonable compensation, the Estates Commissioners will arrange to send an inspector to the estate with a view to facilitate the reinstatement of these tenants with the least possible delay.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have been informed by the Owner's Agent that Breen, who occupies the holding in question, has signed an agreement to purchase, and that the owner does not intend to depart from the terms arranged with him. The Commissioners will, however, make inquiries with a view of ascertaining whether an arrangement is possible.

Knocknagree Estates.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in reference to the estates of Mr. W. N. Leader, of Dromagh, county Cork, and Hungerford and Clorahn, Knocknagree, whether the Estates Commissioners will instruct the inspector who is about to visit the Clery estate, Knocknagree, to visit and inspect these estates, which are in the same locality, about the same time, with a view to restore the evicted tenants whose applications have been before the Commissioners for a considerable time.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they intend to make inquiries as soon as possible into the cases of all evicted tenants in the district referred to who have applied to them for reinstatement.

Dromahane Evicted Tenant.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have any further statement to make in regard to the case of Mr. Timothy C. O'Callaghan, of Dromahane, Mallow, who was evicted from the Newman Estate though he offered to purchase upon the same terms as the other tenants whose agreements have been sanctioned; is he aware that the Commissioners informed the Member for North Cork some months since that they were in communication with the vendor on the subject of O'Callaghan's eviction; and whether, having regard to the admittedly exceptional nature of this man's case, they are now prepared to take exceptional measures to bring about his reinstatement.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have forwarded to me a copy of a letter which they sent to Mr. O'Callaghan on the 10th instant, setting forth the reasons given by the landlord for his refusal to sell to Mr. O'Callaghan, or to reinstate him after eviction. The Commissioners are awaiting a futher communication from Mr. O'Callaghan before deciding what action, if any, they may take in the matter. I will forward to the hon. Member a copy of the letter referred to.

Mayberry Estate—Evicted Tenants.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the landlord of the Mayberry Estate, near Kenmare, has refused to reinstate the six evicted tenants on the estate, although application has frequently been made; and whether this matter will be considered by the inspectors appointed to deal with the Question of evicted tenants.

Mr. BRYCE: I have no information as to whether the owner of the estate referred to has refused to reinstate evicted tenants. The Estates Commissioners, however, inform me that they have received applications for reinstatement from five persons who claim to have been evicted from this estate, and that the cases of these evicted tenants will be duly inquired into.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Cannot the Estates Commissioners initiate proceedings by sending an inspector to ask the landlord to reinstate these tenants?

Mr. BRYCE: They can only proceed where the sale of the estate is actually pending, and where they have been applied to to take action. May I suggest that Questions involving points of practice should be given notice of?

Sinn Fein Association.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will ascertain from the Inspector-General if a shorthand note taker was present at a meeting of the Kilcreele branch of the Sinn Fein Association at which Mr. P. J. Kelly, J.P., is reported to have made a speech on the subject of one Antony Daly, who was executed for shooting a land agent; if a note taker was not present, whether notes of the language attributed to Mr. Kelly, J.P., were made by the police present on the occasion, either at the time his words were spoken or afterwards, when the police returned to their barracks; if so, whether the police report substantially bears out the language attributed to Mr. Kelly; and whether he will direct the attention of the Lord Chancellor to them.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed by the Inspector-General that no police shorthand note taker was present on the occasion referred to. As to the remainder of the Question, I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member's previous Question on the 2nd instant.†

MR. CONOR O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): Was not the real object of the meeting to protest against the attempt of the landlord to destroy the policy of the present Government with regard to congested districts, and to protest also against the giving of forty years purchase for a farm in a congested district, the rent of which had been fixed by the landlord himself.

MR. BRYCE: I have no particulars as to that.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): Is it not the case that Antony Daly was executed sixty years ago?

MR. BRYCE: Yes, more than sixty years ago.

Crannagh Farm, County Mayo.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the speech made by the hon. Member for North Mayo, at a public meeting of the United Irish League, held on the 4th instant at Ardagh, near Ballina, county Mayo, to protest against the sale which was about to be held of Crannagh farm; and whether he intends to take any, and, if so, what action to prevent intimidation and inciting to boycott such as this.

MR. BRYCE: I have nothing to add to the Answer which I gave to the Question on the subject put by the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh on Monday.‡

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Is it in order to make the Notice Paper of this House a vehicle for conveying charges against hon. Members? I refer to the last few words of the Question.

*MR. SPEAKER: Had my attention been called to the Question I should certainly have deleted the words.

AN HON. MEMBER: If it is a Nationalist Member's Question the Clerks take care to do it always.

*MR. SPEAKER: The original Question contained a variety of quotations which were cut out, and these words which referred to them should also have been omitted.

MR. LONSDALE: Is it within the province of any Member of this House to attend public meetings outside and use inflammatory language?

*MR. SPEAKER: I am afraid that a good deal of inflammatory language is used outside and inside this House.

The Rev. Marshall Vincent's Rapla Estate.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.) I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that, some time ago, the Estate Commissioners declared the holdings of nine tenants on the estate of the Rev. Marshall Vincent, at Rapla, near Nenagh, in the county Tipperary, to be a separate estate, although they refused on a previous occasion to do so; that, while these nine holdings have been created since 1902, the four old tenants, whose predecessors had been on the estate for generations, are not enabled to purchase their holding; that a condition sought to be imposed by the landlord, when negotiating for sale to one of the four old tenants, was that he should purchase an evicted farm in addition to his own; and can he state the nature of the correspondence and inquiries which caused the Estates Commissioners to change their mind on the question of the sale.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the holdings referred to, having been declared by them to be an "estate," were sold to and vested in the purchasing tenants on August 4th, 1904. The tenancies were created in 1902 with the object of enlarging the holdings in the occupation of the purchasing tenants. The vendor had applied that certain of the lands in his possession should be excluded from the sale, and the Commissioners, before finally declaring the lands sold to be an "estate," perused the correspondence which had passed between the vendor's solicitor and the tenants' solicitor, and came to the conclusion that the application of the vendor was reasonable. I have no further information in the matter.

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† See (4) *Debates*, c.vi., 56'.

‡ See Col. 151.

Lisnamrock Evicted Tenant.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application of Martin Maher, evicted tenant on the estate of Mr. George Langley, for reinstatement in his farm at Lisnamrock and Knockolonga, Mid-Tipperary; is this farm at present let on the eleven months' grazing system; have any proposals for purchase been made by the tenants; and, generally, will he state what steps have been or will be taken by the Estates Commissioners to secure the reinstatement of Maher in his old holding.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received an application for reinstatement from Martin Maher. No proceedings for the sale of the estate have yet been instituted, but the case has been referred to an inspector for special report with a view to a settlement.

Captain Carden's Burnane Estate.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Captain Carden has offered to sell his property at Burnane to the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, in what manner do the Commissioners propose to deal with it.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no originating application or request in respect of the sale of this estate has been lodged with them, but they have had some preliminary negotiations on the subject with the owner.

Athlone Workmen's Dwellings.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the site selected by the Urban District Council of Athlone for the erection upon it of workmen's dwellings, whether Mr. Cowan, Chief Engineering Inspector of the Local Government Board, has approved of the selection; and, if so, whether the Board will sanction the scheme and allow the work proposed by the district council to be carried out without further delay.

MR. BRYCE: The Local Government Board are prepared to sanction a loan for the erection of workmen's houses when a suitable site is secured by the Urban District Council. In 1903 the Council obtained, under a Provisional Order confirmed by Parliament, compulsory powers for the acquisition of a site, but they are apparently unwilling to exercise these powers and have since been endeavouring to obtain another suitable site. Of the alternative sites put forward by the Council, one only has been favourably reported on by the Board's Inspectors. The question of the purchase money for this site has not, however, been settled, and a loan for its acquisition and for the erection of houses on it could not be sanctioned until a Local Inquiry has been held The Board have so informed the Council, and are now awaiting an application from them to have the Inquiry held.

MR. HAYDEN: Is this the site that Mr. Cowan approves in the correspondence between the Urban Council and the Local Government Board?

MR. BRYCE: I will inquire.

Reenard Pier.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any, and, if so, what, steps have been taken to proceed with the construction of the pier at Reenard, near Cahirciveen, under the Marine Works Act.

MR. BRYCE: I indicated the position of affairs in regard to this matter in my reply to the hon. Member's previous Question of April 3rd.,† and am not yet in a position to say more.

Dublin Police and the Licensing Trade.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police has issued an order stating that there has been a tendency amongst the sergeants of police to avoid making cases against licensed traders in the metropolitan area; if, in order to draw attention to their failure in this respect, the responsibility was thrown upon the shoulders of the inspectors of police; if the inspectors were told that it was necessary that cases should be made; and, if this order was not issued by the Chief Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner, whether the Chief Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner gave authority to any of their subordinates to issue such an order; and whether an order in this sense has been issued.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 365.

MR. BRYCE: The Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police informs me that neither he nor the Assistant Commissioner has issued any such circular as is referred to, nor has authority been given to any subordinate to issue such circular. The Chief Commissioner has no knowledge that any subordinate officer of the force has in fact issued such a circular, but he is making inquiries into the matter.

Irish Motor Races—Police Inquiry.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, in the police inquiry held in connection with the Irish motor race, Constable Shankey's sworn evidence was contrary to a previous statement signed by him and given to his superior officer; whether the statement and subsequent sworn evidence of Constable Shankey will be laid upon the Table of the House, together with the statements and subsequent sworn evidence of the constables who were dismissed in connection with this inquiry; and, if not, what action, if any, will be taken regarding Constable Shankey.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Inspector-General that no constable named Shankey was examined at the police inquiry referred to, which took place in the year 1903. The Inspector-General is not aware that the suggestion made in the question applies to the evidence of any policeman who was examined at that inquiry.

Lord Ashbrook's King's County Estate.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many evictions have taken place and are pending upon the estate of Lord Ashbrook, since 1903, on his King's County estate; and will the Estate Commissioners intervene to protect these tenants, who are weighed down with arrears.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no knowledge of any evictions which may have taken place or be impending on the estate in question. The Commissioners have received but one application from a person claiming to have been evicted from the estate. It shall receive due attention. The Commissioners have no power to intervene except where their functions are invoked under the Land Purchase Acts. If tenants who are evicted apply to the Commissioners their cases will be duly considered.

Marlborough Street Training College—Students' Food.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that complaints have been made by the students of Marlborough Street Training College in regard to the food supplied; whether he is aware that many of the female students were obliged to purchase bread, being unable to use that supplied to contract; and what action, if any, does he propose to take in the matter.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Commissioners of National Education that complaints have recently been made to them in respect of the bread supplied to the students of the Marlborough Street Training College. It is reported that in some instances female students purchased bread in the city. The Commissioners have fully investigated these complaints, and have taken such steps in regard to the bread supply as will, they hope, prevent a recurrence of any cause of complaint.

Irish Department of Agriculture.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of a resolution passed by the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, protesting against any interference with the constitution and conduct of the Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction on lines which would bring it under the control of the General Council of County Councils of Ireland; whether he is aware that this is a purely Nationalist organisation; and whether the council of the

Royal Ulster Agricultural Association will be permitted to lay its views before the Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department.

MR. BRYCE: I have received a copy of the resolution referred to. I have no knowledge of the political complexion of either the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society or the General Council of County Councils of Ireland. The question whether the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society may lay its views before the Committee of Inquiry is one for the determination of the Committee, who, I have no doubt, will give all proper consideration to any request on the subject which may be addressed to them.

MR. LONSDALE: Does the right hon. Gentleman know the political complexion of the County Councils Association? If not, will he inquire?

MR. BRYCE: I do not see that I am called upon to do so.

MR. LONSDALE: Have not the Unionist Members retired from that body, so that it is now composed solely of Nationalists.

MR. BRYCE: I know nothing about that.

Ballinasloe Meeting of the United Irish League.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings of the East Galway executive of the United Irish League, at a meeting held on Sunday, April 22nd, at Ballinasloe, at which it was decided that all graziers should be written to to surrender their farms; what steps the Government have taken to counteract the action of the league in the matter; and what steps they intend to take to reassure tenants of grazing farms that they will receive adequate protection against intimidation of this kind at the instance of the United Irish League.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the police authorities that the meeting referred to was held within doors, and that the police have no evidence as to what may have occurred at it. It is the duty of the police to afford any protection which may be necessary to all classes of His Majesty's subjects. The police, however, have no reason to apprehend that any special measures of this kind will be necessary in the district referred to.

MR. HAZLETON: Is the charge of intimidation made in the latter part of the Question in order?

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think the words are very objectionable. They relate evidently to certain letters written to tenants calling on them to surrender their farms. Possibly a better phrase might have been chosen.

Armagh Rural Postmen.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that rural postmen in county Armagh are compelled to perform Sunday duty, and are required to travel miles to notify certain persons that no letters have arrived for them; and will he say what extra pay do they receive for this duty, and by whose directions it is performed?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: A number of rural postmen in county Armagh are required to perform duty on alternate Sundays, for which they receive extra payment at the special Sunday rates. I am not aware that in any case a rural postman has to call at a house merely to notify that there are no letters for the occupants. If, however, the hon. Member knows of such a case, and will give me particulars, I will give instructions for the practice to be discontinued.

Caledon Mails.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will consider the possibility of giving the people of Caledon, county Tyrone, a despatch of mails for England and Scotland at 6 p.m. daily, in substitution for the present 2.40 p.m. mail, the mails being despatched to England *via* Greenore and to Scotland *via* Belfast and Ardrossan.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

Irish Postmen's Uniforms.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the cloth used for the uniforms of postmen in Ireland is of Irish manufacture; and, if it is not, will he say whether such cloth could be obtained from mills in Ireland.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: No contracts for the supply of cloth used for postmen's uniforms are at present held in Ireland, but it is open to all firms in Ireland to tender for these contracts in the general competition, notice of which is given by advertisement annually.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN: Can the right hon. Gentleman answer the last part of the Question?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am afraid not.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman apply to the mills for samples?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON asked for notice of the Question.

Irish Land Stock.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the total amount of stock issued under the Land Purchase Act, 1903, up to March, 1906, the actual cash received, the loss on flotation, the annual charge for the repayment of this loss, and from what source does it come.

Mr. ASQUITH: The total amount of stock issued under the Land Purchase Act, 1903, up to March, 1906, was £13,201,444 8s. 9d. The actual cash received was £11,691,454 1s. 8d., and the difference was £1,509,990 7s. 1d. The annual charge for the repayment of this difference is £49,074 13s. 8d., of which £44,653 6s. 9d. is in respect of advances and is paid from the guarantee fund; and the remainder, £4,421 6s. 11d., is in respect of the Land Purchase Aid Fund, and forms part of the amount provided under Subhead G of the Vote for the Irish Land Commission.

Curragh Camp Canteen.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Kildare, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War through what Department or branch of Department Army supplies for the camp at the Curragh of Kildare are procured and distributed; is it the custom to purchase supplies, where possible, from the farmers of districts where large camps are situated; is there any order or regulation governing the purchase and distribution of supplies for the use of such camps; what is the custom, if any, of inspection of supplies; and what experience have those who may be appointed to carry out such inspection.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): Army supplies for rations of Provisions and Forage are obtained under contracts arranged by the General Officer commanding, and the supplies are delivered through the Army Service Corps for distribution to the troops. As large camps are ordinarily supplied under contracts it is not customary in such a case to specially purchase supplies from local farmers, but during the manœuvre season purchases from local farmers are frequently made for those places not covered by existing contracts. The answer to the third Question is in the negative. All supplies are inspected on delivery by specially trained and qualified officers of the Army Service Corps.

The Education Bill.

Mr. BOLAND, on a point of order, asked whether Amendments to a Bill ought not to be printed in the order in which they were handed in. The hon. Member stated that he was second at the Table, and that at the head of the list of his Amendments was one in the name of the hon. Member for Waterford. But on the list of Amendments that Amendment was eighth, not second.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that there was always particular difficulty in getting the Amendments handed in the moment after the Second Reading had been given to a Bill, especially if a great deal of interest was taken in the Bill. There were about twenty-five pages of Amendments handed in last Thursday, as soon as the figures of the division were announced. Properly speaking, every hon. Member ought to hand in his own list of Amendments, but if that rule were strictly enforced, it would be impossible for the Members in the "No" lobby to get out, because there would be a string of Members reaching from the lobby down to the Table. The late Speaker, therefore, accepted the practice of one Member handing in the Amendments of his hon. friends. That was what occurred last week. If any injustice were done by that practice, he would do his best to amend it. But in this case, although the hon. Member for Waterford stood eighth on the list, he would not in any case have stood first; and, therefore, no substantial injustice was done.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that if his Amendment had been accepted in the order in which it was handed in, it would have stood second on the list. He asked whether, as his Amendment was undoubtedly handed in second, the Speaker would not direct that it should appear second in order.

*MR. SPEAKER: I will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked whether the Leader of the House still considered it a convenient thing to any Party in the House to take the Education Bill in Committee on Monday. He had not examined precedents, but he must say the interval allowed between the Second Reading and the Committee stage was extremely small. He doubted whether any first-class Bill which had excited so much animated controversy had ever been pressed on after such a brief interval.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said it would be a convenience to Irish Members to know whether it was intended to carry on the Committee discussions right up to the eve of the Whitsun holidays.

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked whether, in the event of any change, the Trade Disputes Bill would be put down for Monday.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I do not think any change is likely to arise. I do not think the time is too short. Although the Bill, as we know, is full of very important points, they are not elaborate, or multiplied, or confused so as to require a very long time for consideration; and I think the time allowed is ample for the purpose. The country as a whole is well seised with the points.

MR. DILLON pressed for a reply to his Question.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the debate in Committee would probably be carried on to the Tuesday before Whit Sunday.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Will the Trade Disputes Bill be taken immediately after Whitsuntide?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No arrangement has yet been made with regard to the Trade Disputes Bill.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): Is there any limit to the number of Amendments which an hon. Member may hand in on behalf of others? To my knowledge a representative of the Government handed in a very big batch. It might happen that a single Member might hand in the Amendments of a whole Party and so secure precedence. Would not that be an abuse of the rule?

*MR. SPEAKER said he was not aware that his predecessor laid down any limit. Such a case as this did not often arise—it was not likely to arise more than once in a session, and to adopt any other course might lead to great inconvenience.

The Police Arrests Commission.

LORD R. CECIL asked when the Prime Minister proposed to introduce the Bill setting up the Royal Commission on the Action and Regulations of the Metropolitan Police, and whether it would contain the names of the members of the Commission and the terms of reference.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Bill requires to be drafted before it is introduced, but the drafting is well advanced. I cannot name any day for its introduction, nor can I now state the names of the members of the Commission. The terms of reference will be the words used by myself in answer to the Question that was put to me.

The Yarmouth Election Petition.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) gave notice that following the precedent set on the Galway Election Petition in 1872 he would move on the first available opportunity, "That this House do resolve itself into a

Committee of the whole House to consider and report on the proceedings at the trial of the election petition for Yarmouth and the complaints that have been made of the partisan and political conduct during the trial of that petition of Mr. Justice Grantham."

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEE).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts, Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Mr. Channing; and had appointed in substitution; Mr. M'Laren.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Andrew Bonar Law, esquire, for the Parliamentary Borough of Camberwell (Dulwich Division).

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Fourth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

NEW BILLS.

RAILWAYS AND STEAMSHIPS (PARMENTARY FACILITIES BILL).

"To secure travelling facilities for Members of Parliament in the discharge of their Parliamentary duties," presented by Mr. Crooks; supported by Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, Sir Christopher Furness, Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Agar-Robartes, Sir John Brunner, Sir Edward Sassoon, Mr. Watson Rutherford, Mr. Wolff, Mr. Charles Schwann, Sir William Bull, and Mr. Joyce; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 211.]

PATENTS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Patents," presented by Mr. Dundas White; supported by Dr. Shipman, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Smeaton, and Mr. Findlay; to be read a second time upon Friday June 15th, and to be printed. [Bill 212.]

WILLS ACT (1837) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend The Wills Act, 1837," presented by Mr. Dundas White; supported by Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. M'Kinnon Wood, Mr. Molteno, and Mr. Cleland; to be read a second time upon Friday, June 15th, and to be printed. [Bill 213.]

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs): I have to ask the leave of the House to introduce a Bill to provide for taking a census of production. I think it is generally felt that we have not got reliable statistics as regards our home trade. We have got the volume of our foreign trade, and details more or less classified and complete, but no statistics at all reliable with regard to our home industry. All those engaged in recent controversy must have felt considerably handicapped owing to that fact. The figures on both sides were more or less conjectural. They were biassed with conjecture and partisanship on both sides. There was no means of arriving at dependable *data* with regard to our home industries. I have seen a good many estimates of output, and they have varied by something like hundreds of millions, and there was no means of testing their accuracy. This is a matter of great importance. We have to decide a great question affecting our trade without any really reliable information with regard to it. If trade is going back, or is at a standstill, or not making the progress we expect it to make, the sooner we know it the better. On the other hand, if it is making steady and sure progress, the sooner we allay all anxiety on the matter the better it will be. I propose by this Bill—I cannot now explain it at any length—that there should be a census of our home industries of the output and production of our manufactures; and that it should be taken in the year 1908 under the supervision of the Board of Trade. Forms will be distributed, and particulars will be demanded regarding the nature of the business, the output, the materials used, the days and hours of work, the persons employed, the wages of the employees, the plant and machinery used, and such other particulars of a like nature as may be prescribed. The census will be compulsory. It will be quite impossible to have a reliable census at all unless it is compulsory, for the very obvious reason that if a number of men fail to fill in forms, through neglect or opposition to the census, you never can say how much they represent—whether they represent 5, 10, or 15 per cent.; and the absence of whatever they represent would vitiate the whole return. With regard to the period, the first census would be taken in the year 1908, for the output of the year 1907. I proposed at first that this should be a quinquennial census, but I have had representations from many quarters representing all parties that it would be very desirable that the census should be biennial. I should not like to come to a final conclusion on that matter at the present moment. If there was a general desire on the part of the manufacturing community that it should be biennial, I should certainly not oppose it. But for the moment I propose to provide by the Bill that it should be at a time prescribed by the Board of Trade or by Order in Council. The question will be decided afterwards in Committee if there is a general feeling that the census should be biennial. There are provisions with regard to the secrecy of the return. It is exceedingly important that any information given by manufacturers should not be divulged. I can quite understand that there might be considerable objection on the part of manufacturers to giving full particulars of the turnout of their business, unless upon full security that these should not be divulged. There will be the same security as now exists with regard to the income tax. That is quite ample. I do not anticipate any difficulty upon that account, for I do not know that there is an instance of information given to the Income Tax Commissioners or Inland Revenue collectors ever having been divulged. What will be asked is not the kind of information required in the United States of America. There the information sought is much more detailed. We have been warned not to be inquisitorial. I rather agree; and all we want is enough *data* to form some sort of idea of the position of our home industries and home trade. That we shall be able, I think, to do under this Bill, which I now ask the leave of the House to introduce.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide for taking a Census of Production."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.): This Bill is introduced under the ten minutes rule, and I believe it has been the practice, although I am not certain it is an absolute rule, that the one other speech which is allowed should be a speech against the Bill which is introduced. All I want to say at the commencement is that if there is anyone who desires to oppose the Bill I will give place to him, because I am going to support the Bill. I feel that the object which the right hon. Gentleman has in view is a very desirable one. Whatever opinions we may have on the condition of trade or other matters connected with fiscal reform, there is one thing which we all want, and that is the possibility of having at our disposal correct statistics on which we can base perhaps very different conclusions. At all events, we all want correct statistics—a thing which it is most difficult to obtain. One thing will be admitted, that the statistics of the Board of Trade, collected with admirable care and no doubt with most perfect impartiality, are at the same time altogether inadequate and incomplete. To take one single point, you have pretty full statistics of the exports and imports of the country, but it is conceivable, though I do not believe it very often occurs, that a very flourishing foreign trade may be contemporaneous with a very depressed home trade, and even the consequence of a very depressed home trade. Before, therefore, we can judge of the general prosperity of the country, it is clear that we want to know what is going on at home as well as what is going on in our foreign relations. I entirely approve, therefore, of the object of this Bill, and I also approve of what has been said by the right hon. Gentleman who has introduced it. It is a difficult business; it will want care; and I only say that, so far as my humble powers go, I shall be glad to give him any assistance I can towards securing the efficiency of such a measure. The difficulty lies in this—that our people, our manufacturers especially, are much more adverse than seems to be the case in some countries—in our Colonies and the United States—to disclosing any particulars with regard to their business. I hope, and the right hon. Gentleman will agree, I am sure, we shall ask for nothing we do not want. What we ask for we must insist upon having from all. We must give them, as the right hon. Gentleman will give them, an assurance against any disclosure of particulars furnished. We do not want details of particular individual industries; we want details of trades and industries as a whole. I am sure a little experience will convince manufacturers that no injury is likely to be done to their particular trade by such returns as they will be asked to furnish. Great care will have to be taken as to the particulars which are asked for to avoid the charge of unnecessary inquisitiveness, and to secure absolute secrecy. Subject to that assurance being given, I am sure my friends on this side and myself will be glad to give any assistance in our power. I hope the Bill will pass.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said he supposed that after the precedent set by the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken, a Bill introduced under the ten minutes' rule might in future be both proposed and supported.

*MR. SPEAKER said he hoped the hon. Member would not regard the course taken on that occasion as a precedent. If any hon. Member had risen to criticise the Bill he would certainly have called upon him; but no hon. Member rose, and he felt that the House was probably anxious to hear the right hon. Gentleman.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Kearley, and Mr. McKenna.

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION BILL

"To provide for taking a Census of Production," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 214.]

Mr. J. Chamberlain.

FINANCE BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) said that before the debate upon the Amendment upon the Paper was proceeded with it might be advisable that the more general aspects of the Budget should be considered by the House. There were two classes of difficulties to which a Chancellor of the Exchequer in introducing a Budget was frequently exposed. The first and greater difficulty was when he had to find new sources of taxation, and the second, which was probably not so great a difficulty, was when he had to make up his mind as to what relief from taxation he should afford and how he should spend and get rid of any surplus that he might have. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, with possibly the echoes of the general election ringing in his ears, was perhaps somewhat overwhelmed with the wealth he now possessed, and as a result had endeavoured to please a greater number of people than he was justified in doing. The complaint he had to bring against the right hon. Gentleman was that he had almost frittered away his surplus. The question which had frequently occupied much attention in this House and in the country in recent years was mainly the question of the Debt. And when right hon. and hon. Gentlemen who were now sitting on the Treasury Bench sat upon the Opposition side of the House a good deal was heard of the subject of Debt. The proposal of his right hon. friend the late Chancellor of the Exchequer last year to add another £1,000,000 to the Sinking Fund was, it was true, received with approval, though some criticisms were directed against him for not having done enough in that direction. They could not therefore regard without some feeling of surprise the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he found himself in the possession of a considerable surplus, had not devoted more of that surplus to the purposes he advocated so keenly from the Opposition side of the House. The right hon.

Gentleman had claimed both in this House and outside that a greater sum had been devoted to the reduction of Debt this year than had ever been devoted before, but the question of the amount was not the scale by which they could measure the extent of the right hon. Gentleman's virtue. That must be measured by Clause 7 of the Finance Bill now under discussion. He noticed that the second section of that clause dealt with the indemnity to be recovered from China. He was not a lawyer and therefore did not know whether he could judge the legal effect of that section, but he hoped and believed that that section went a considerable way towards, not only fixing the sum that might be received from the Chinese indemnity this year, but in future years, and in fixing that such sums should be devoted to the reduction of debt. He believed that so far as an Act of Parliament could bind future Parliaments this section would bind them, and that the onus would be thrown upon some future occupant of the Treasury Bench to repeal this clause. They had to measure the extent of the right hon. Gentleman's virtue in the reduction of Debt by the proposals contained in the first part of Clause 7. It was quite obvious that the right hon. Gentleman could not have made any reduction in the figure at which the provision of the Budget for the reduction of Debt stood last year, £28,000,000. The question which many were anticipating with great interest was what further provision the right hon. Gentleman would propose to make, and it was with a certain amount of surprise that they heard that the right hon. Gentleman limited it to the smallest figure that he possibly could. It was not possible to give less than £500,000, and many hon. Members hoped that it would be considerably increased. So far as it went they had every reason to be satisfied, but they could not but regret that the right hon. Gentleman had not seen his way, when he was in the possession of such a surplus, to make a still further reduction. On this question of debt he would like to ask the Government what their intentions were with reference to the loans that were obtained through the Public Works Loans Commissioners. The nature of those loans, he was aware, was not under the control of the Treasury, but the Treasury had considerable influence and power in dealing with such loans by the rates of interest which they were authorised by Parliament from time to time to fix. He gathered from the Prime Minister's Albert Hall speech that efforts were to be made by the Government to encourage municipal enterprise, and he thought he detected a hint to the same effect in the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He thought they were entitled to know if any change had been made in the rates of interest which could be fixed from time to time by the act of the Treasury, and whether they were going to depart from the policy pursued by the late Government of endeavouring to limit as far as possible the borrowings from the Public Works Loans Commissioners. He confessed that he read with surprise the statement that the Treasury were considering the advisability of making a departure in the direction he had mentioned. When they considered the weight of the public debt of this country they could not view without the greatest apprehension the very rapidly increasing local indebtedness, and any action of this House in that direction was greatly to be regretted. Turning to the tea duty, it was almost an axiom that any remission of that duty was useless unless the benefit of such a reduction went into the pocket of the consumer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had informed the House that the consumer would benefit by the reduction of one penny, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman was right in that assumption. He had seen it stated, however, that it was impossible to reduce the price although the quality might be improved. Personally he was a little sceptical about that improvement in the quality, and he would much prefer a reduction in the price. He sincerely hoped that eventually the reduction of the tea duty would find its way into the pockets of the consumers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had also removed the export tax on coal, although owing to various causes the coal trade—and especially the export trade—was at present in a satisfactory condition. He hardly thought the repeal of that tax was worth the effort which had been made. It was impossible for anyone who was not an expert in the coal trade and thoroughly conversant with all the conditions of that industry to judge as to where that remission of duty would ultimately find its way. He knew that a great deal of electoral pressure had been put upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he doubted whether it was quite wise, at a moment when he was necessarily marking time and when he did not know what would be the effect of his proposals, to deprive himself of so large a source of revenue from a tax which was in no degree pressing upon the industries of the country. It was unnecessary to remind Members that they were awaiting with considerable interests the financial proposals which would be brought before the House during the tenure of office of the present Government. A large sum of money was already ear-marked for next year for the purpose of carrying out the Education Bill which had recently passed its Second Reading. He did not know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer would consider that it was due to Ireland and Scotland that he should continue the principle of the equivalent grants. If the Government proceeded upon that line they would be obliged to make a still further inroad upon the finances of the country. The right hon. Gentleman was fully justified in asking his Irish supporters to withhold their hand until he was in a position to judge of their demands. They did not know at the present moment what the nature of those demands would be or what reply the Government would make to them, but whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer agreed wholly or partially to them they would certainly not lead to any diminution of expenditure, and he would probably find himself in future having to face still further demands, not only in regard to education, but also in respect of other questions. Another reduction the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given was in connection with the vexed question of stripped tobacco and stems. Before dealing with this point he wished to take the opportunity of congratulating his right hon. friend the late Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the very interesting announcement which was made a few days ago. He did not know whether his right hon. friend would be able to find time to go into this vexed question at any length, but it might be advisable to postpone the details of it until the Committee stage was reached. All he wished to say now was that he regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had deemed it advisable at such an early date to make any alteration in the tobacco duties, because the change proposed must have a considerable effect upon the trade. Unquestionably the consumer would not benefit by a reduction of the duty upon strips, and he did not think the small manufacturers would be any better off, although he was inclined to think that some slight benefit would accrue to the big manufacturers in the tobacco trade. He had also good reason for believing that the alteration proposed in this duty would have a very considerable effect upon a large number of people employed in the stripping industry. He thought he was justified in asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make good his statement that in this Budget the Government were not going to depart from the strictest principles of free trade. He wished to know whether the right hon. Gentleman had had time to institute a thorough and minute inquiry into the incidence of taxes on tobacco, and whether he had found that those taxes were in accordance with the strictest interpretation of free trade. He hoped that at a later stage they would have an opportunity of examining this question with fuller minuteness, and that those who were so much interested and affected would be able to lay their views before the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the country. He hoped that in the course of the observations he had made he had justified the proposition that the right hon. Gentleman had not used his surplus to the best possible advantage. It might be an easy retort to say to the Opposition, "If you had not been turned out of office what would you have done?" It was, of course, impossible for him to say what the late Government would have done, but speaking for himself he thought that the claims of the income-tax payer ought to have received more favourable consideration. There was some justification for complaint on the part of the income-tax payer, and a great effort ought to have been made by the Government to endeavour to make a reduction of that heavy burden. Naturally a great deal of interest was being taken in the heavy expenditure which had to be provided for in the Annual Estimates. In this matter he hoped he might be considered as coming to the assistance of the Government in the few remarks he would make upon the proposal to establish an Estimates Committee. There was a recommendation that certain classes of Estimates should be submitted every year to a Select Committee in order that they might be discussed in that detail which, under the present Parliamentary practice, it was difficult to secure. This recommendation was carried by a small majority, and he earnestly hoped that before hon. Members urged upon the House the advisability of appointing an Estimates Committee they would read most carefully the evidence given before that Committee. The proposal to appoint a Committee to inquire into the Estimates sounded admirable in theory, but in practice it would be found both impracticable and unworkable. In the first place, it would not be possible for any Committee to do that work. If anything like a complete class of Estimates were referred to such a Committee, it would be physically impossible to give that minute attention to all the details which was absolutely necessary before they could express a reliable opinion. Upon the Committee which was now dealing with Official Publications, which was only a small part of one Vote, they had already had five sittings, and from that illustration it would be seen that it would be impossible for a Committee to deal with all the Votes in any class in one year. Then there was another strong objection to such a Committee from the point of view of the House itself. Many of the questions largely affecting the administration of the Votes were dependent upon wages and salaries, and no more vexed question could be brought up in the House than the wages paid in the Customs and Inland Revenue Departments. No doubt every hon. Member was made aware during the election of the pressure which could be brought to bear by the employees in those two Government Departments. If the duty of dealing with wages was thrown upon a Committee, it would be a very invidious task to have to refuse to hear evidence on behalf of those employees; and anything like an unfavourable consideration of their claims would at once mark out that Committee, and very considerable pressure would be brought to bear upon them. The object of the House ought to be to make the Treasury Bench responsible for the Estimates. Each department must be responsible for the framing of its own Estimates; the Treasury must be responsible for control over them and for their presentation to the House He thought the intervention of a Committee might have a very damaging effect upon that control if it was exercised in the way he had pointed out. He might ask those interested in this matter: "Are the Estimates to go before this Committee before or after they have been to the Treasury? The matter was one of some importance. If the Estimates were to be approved first by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that would throw upon the Treasury the duty of defending them before the Select Committee. That was a duty which ought to be exercised by the Treasury, and any attempt to throw the responsibility on the Committee would, he thought, tend to a diminution of that strong financial control which should remain with the Treasury. In previous sessions when the Government of the day refused to provide sums of money which any section of the House considered reasonable and desirable the retort to the Government at once was that they were entirely under the thumb of a Treasury official. A Treasury official was generally regarded as a person with no feeling. It was thought by some hon. Members that matters might be better if only they could get away from the Treasury. He hoped there would be no intervention from the point of view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer between him and the officials. If the Committee were appointed he believed the Departments would frequently bring forward the argument that the expenditure proposed was justifiable and necessary, and they would be able to say to the Treasury, "At any rate, let us go before the Committee and see if we cannot impress them." The First Commissioner of

Works frequently was unable to carry out objects brought before him in this House and could not get the money from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He believed the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works could twiddle any Select Committee round his thumb, and prove the absolute necessity of all and everything he asked. He hoped they never would be able to treat the Treasury officials with the same ease as they treated a Select Committee of this House. Hon. Members interested in this subject might, at first blush, consider it an admirable idea to have an Estimates Committee, but he would ask them to endeavour to trace out for themselves the course which must inevitably be pursued, and the full effects of it. He believed it would not be wise and that it would be contrary to the best interests of the public service to appoint such a Committee. Speaking as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee he considered it necessary to tell the House that, strongly as he disapproved of the proposed Estimates Committee, it would have no effect on any judgment he had to form or any advice he had to give to the Public Accounts Committee, who, he was sure, would be actuated by the desire to do what they considered to be for the best interests of the House as a whole. The Public Accounts Committee in any selection of Estimates they might make for consideration would act in deference to what they believed to be the best interests of the House. He hoped this question would not be unduly pressed on the Government during the present session when the House was largely composed of new Members who, before anything was done, should have full opportuntiy of making themselves acquainted with the rather complicated and difficult processes of our financial affairs. He thought it would be unfair and unwise to press the proposal on the Government.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said the hon. Member the late Secretary of the Treasury was always an exceedingly fair critic, and in the speech just delivered he had shown his usual moderation. He did not think the hon. Member was quite just in his criticism of the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he said that the right hon. Gentleman had frittered away his surplus. He agreed that the right hon. Gentleman might have gone further without faring any worse with regard to the tea duty. The hon. Member had forgotten that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had endeavoured to achieve two objects with his remission of taxation. The first, and perhaps not the less important, was to free trade from certain restrictions placed upon it, notably in the cases of the coal-tax and the tobacco duty. He reminded the hon. Member that Mr. Gladstone said that more could be done for the taxpayer by freeing trade from hampering duties than even by the direct reduction of taxation. The coal-tax was exceedingly unequal in its incidence. Scotland and the North of England especially suffered more because they produced the cheaper class of coal. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had remitted a portion of the tea duty. The right hon. Gentleman was bound to deal with the indirect taxes which had been put on under the guise of war taxes, but the House must not lose sight of the fact that many of those taxes, put on presumably as war taxes, were really to meet the increase in the ordinary expenditure. The hon. Member for West Derbyshire had also criticised the Chancellor of the Exchequer for not laying aside a larger amount for the reduction of debt, and had made some observations with regard to what took place in this House last year. There was no adverse criticism of the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year with regard to the sum laid aside for this purpose. The criticism then was rather as to the method he adopted in paying off the £1,000,000 a year by a lottery process which experience had shown was altogether reprehensible. The hon. Member had altogether lost sight of the fact, which, after all, was the governing factor in considering the sinking fund, namely, that—even with the additional £1,000,000, which the late Chancellor of the Exchequer applied towards the sinking fund last year, and although he had laid aside the large sum of £10,000,000 for the reduction of debt to go to the sinking fund—the estimated expenditure under naval and military works loans amounted to £9,000,000, and had this been expended—happily it had not been—the effective sinking fund would have amounted to only about £1,000,000. What was the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer? After providing for expenditure under naval and military works loans there would be a net reducton of £9,000,000 in our indebtedness in the coming year. The total sum laid aside was £13,500,000. The late Secretary of the Treasury had also referred to the loans from the Public Works Loans Commissioners. They all admitted that local expenditure should be watched with care, but at the same time they must never forget that great a part of it was remunerative expenditure, and that, in many cases local authorities were getting a revenue not only to provide for the interest on the loans but also for the redemption of the debt incurred. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when dealing with the equivalent grants, would propose some form of local taxation which would enable them to get rid of the wasteful form of grants which tended so much to local extravagance. The House must be indebted to the hon. Member for his thoughtful remarks with regard to the proposed Estimates Committee. Personally, he could not say that he agreed altogether with the propositior laid down by the hon. Member, but he entirely agreed that the Government of the day must not devolve any of its responsibility with regard to expenditure. Anyone who had sat on the Public Accounts Committee must have been impressed by the fact that the Committee were doing useful work in criticising expenditure even twelve months after it had been incurred. He had always maintained that something of the kind was necessary with regard to the Estimates before the expenditure began. It also seemed to him that it would be an improvement if they had some form whereby the Estimates from the different Departments could be laid before the House in order that they might have an opportunity of considering the expenditure of the year as a whole before being finally committed to it, instead of being left, as under present conditions, to criticise it when the Budget proposals were before the House. If his right hon. friend wished further argument in favour of dealing with the tea duty he would find it in the fact that when the Budget was submitted for 1895–6 the then Liberal Chancellor of the Exchequer budgeted Customs duties amounting to £20,756,000. The estimate for the present year, after allowing £1,000,000 for the remission of tea duty, amounted to £33,230,000, so that there was an increase in Customs alone in a comparatively short space of time of £12,474,000. In Excise there had been an increase of £3,400,000. The hon. Gentleman had pleaded the claims of the income-tax payer. They all realised that the poorer class of income-tax payers were heavily rated. The yield of the income tax was now £31,500,000, as against £16,100,000 in 1895–6. He would recommend to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a reform which he might carry out in his present Budget in connection with the income-tax, and that was regarding the iniquitous system—he could call it nothing else—of exemptions under the provisions of the Income Tax Act of 1842, which were adopted for quite a different purpose—now being put into force in connection with the renewal of ground leases. He hoped his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give some attention to that matter, because he was sure that it would bring in a much larger sum to the Imperial Revenue than most hon. Members supposed, a sum which would be most equitable. He would like to make a few remarks as to the Debt Redemption proposals set out in the Finance Bill. He had already said that he would have liked to have seen his right hon. friend setting up new terminable annuities in place of those which were falling in. With the position of Consols at present, standing as they did at 90, the Chancellor of the Exchequer might be able to cancel £51,000,000 of Consols with those terminable annuities. In addition to that he would have the Chinese war indemnity, and be able to cancel other £5,000,000. The application of the Chinese War Indemnity to repayment of debt would be carrying out the policy of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Lord Ritchie, who estimated that the sum of £6,000,000 from this source should be applied to the reduction of the War Debt. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer saw no temptation to buy Consols at £90 for every £100, he might, by a scheme of terminable annuities, fund the floating debt and provide for its extinction in twenty years. He would be, therefore, enabled to redeem the floating debt which amounted at March 31st last to £55,770,000—almost exactly what these annuities would redeem in twenty years. He thought that such a transaction would be for the benefit of the State. Another advantage of the proposal he had submitted was that it would stereotype the amount that was to be provided for the reduction of the National Debt; and would put it out of the power of any Chancellor of the Exchequer to tamper with the Sinking Fund. His hon. friend he Member for West Derbyshire belonged to the Party whose Chancellor of the Exchequer had cut down the contribution to the Sinking Fund by £2,000,000 a year on two occasions and £1,000,000 in another year. In 1899 the then Chancellor of the Exchequer said the year before the South African War that the revenue was not able to meet the ordinary expenditure. He found that certain annuities were expiring and he anticipated the falling in of the Savings Bank Annuities, and reduced the Sinking Fund by £2,000,000, and as a justification Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said—

> "If I do not this, I must increase direct as well as indirect taxation."

He thought that if his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer looked into this matter he would be able to devise something in the way suggested. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham had characterised this as a humdrum Budget. He would rather say it was an interim Budget, and he admired the courage with which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given effect in his Budget to the principles of sound finance which had been so long departed from in this House.

Mr. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) said that his breath was taken away by the statement that the present heavy expenditure was due to the late Government. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had forgotten their own schemes. For instance, he remembered a most remarkable document which was signed by 119 Members of the House of Commons and sent to the King of Greece. He remembered also the despatch of a fleet in connection with the Armenian atrocities and also the interference of hon. Gentlemen opposite in Macedonia and the Congo. He would remind hon. Gentlemen that all these schemes had not much effect with foreign nations. One battleship and one regiment of soldiers had more effect than all the speeches made in the House. He wished, however, to draw attention more particularly to the abolition of the coal-tax and the reduction of the tea and tobacco duties. It was not difficult for him as an amateur to decide between two so great fiscal authorities as the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham when they differed, and when they agreed he had a shrewd suspicion that they were both wrong. He was sorry to say that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had fallen into the same mistake as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and said that tea was a necessary of life.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): Of course it is.

Mr. LAMBTON said he should like to know when tea became a necessary of life to any Englishman or any English woman. Shakespeare, Queen Elizabeth and Oliver Cromwell never drank tea. No doubt there were modern Shakespeares, but whether they were better than the old he could not tell. They also had their Cromwells of modern date, and he should have liked to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether their superiority to the old was due to tea drinking. Tea might be soothing to politicians who suffered from acerbity of temper, but he never found it had been beneficial to women or children. He was glad that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had taken off the coal duty. When that tax was introduced he was under the painful necessity of separating himself from his party, and the still more painful duty of making a speech on the subject. If he remembered rightly, that speech was couched in language of great moderation, considering the iniquity of the tax. He remembered also that he warned the Government of the danger of departing from free trade. The Member for West Birmingham made a speech the other day to the Tariff Reform Section of the Unionist Party, in which he said the repeal of the coal-tax benefited only the mighty men of the north and the foreign consumer. The only people who would be benefited, the right hon. Gentleman said, were the coal owners, of whose unselfishness they had had an illustration by their attitude upon the Workmen's Compensation Bill, and the foreign consumers. He was glad the men of the north were so mighty. He had some respect for the men of the Midlands, but he did not think they in the north wished to be dictated to by the mighty city of the Midlands, or by any other part of the country. The right hon. Gentleman said that the unselfishness of the coalowners was illustrated by their attitude to the Compensation Bill. Did he mean the present Bill or the old one?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The old one.

Mr. LAMBTON thought it rather unnecessary to brand the coalowners of the north for opposition to a Bill which the right hon. Gentleman brought in no less than nine years ago. He remembered, when the coal-tax was first imposed in 1901, the right hon. Gentleman, addressing his constituents in the Midlands, said that either the coalowner who produced the coal, or the foreigner who bought it, must pay the tax, and he did not care which. The right hon. Gentleman had since stumped the country for two-and-a-half years on behalf of the English producer against the foreign competitor. He did not know if there was any Member who would still maintain that the tax on coal was paid by the foreigner.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do.

Mr. LAMBTON said it might be so in the case of coal which was a monopoly; but that coal did not come from the north, and it was impossible to argue that the foreigner paid the tax on coal from the north. Suppose he wanted to buy a good stout hat to wear at a tariff reform meeting, and he had a sovereign to offer a Unionist Member for his. The owner was willing to sell but the right hon. Member for West Birmingham said, "Before you sell your hat you must give me a shilling." Either he should have to pay 21s. for the hat, which he could not afford, or the owner of the hat would have to accept 19s. and give the right hon. Gentleman 1s. The result would be that he would have to go over to the other side of the House and buy a hat which would probably not be so good a one. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give some indication of his attitude towards the Finance Bill in the future. They had been told since February 14th that there had been a complete concordat in the Unionist Party. When the right hon. Gentleman first started on his missionary attempt there was some doubt whether the late Prime Minister was in accord with him or not. He certainly wished the missionary God-speed, but perhaps that was less from a desire to spread the gospel than the secret hope that the missionary would be devoured by the heathen. With regard to alternative taxes to the coal tax, he hoped hon. Members opposite would not receive too much support from his side of the House in advocating taxation of mining royalties. The owner of the coal was already taxed like any other person on his property, which was, moreover, a diminishing property. The Royal Commission of 1893 reported—

> "We are of opinion that the system of royalties has not interfered with the general development of mineral resources of the United Kingdom or with the export trade in coal with foreign countries."

The Royal Commission of 1893, therefore, had no fault to find with royalties but the Report of the Royal Commission published last year, had some fault to find with the coal tax. Why should one form of property be taxed more than another? It must be remembered, as he had pointed out that the coal owners' property was a vanishing one, and he should like on this point to call attention to the evidence of an American witness, Dr. Raymond. He was asked about coal royalties, which in the United

States were very much in the same position as in this country. He said that for the State to assert a right over the minerals would mean with them confiscation and anarchy. If there had been anything the State had done in America it had been to recognise the right of property in the coal as well as in the land, and they might as well go the whole figure with Mr. George and assert ownership in the land and wipe out all private property as to begin in that way. He would detain the House no longer. He only desired to make these few remarks on coal royalties, but he would warn hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House, who sometimes had curious ideas as to what they should and should not support, that this was a question they ought seriously to consider. With regard to the present Budget, he would only say that having regard to the difficulties which the Government had inherited and the difficulties that they had made for themselves it was not a bad Budget.

*Mr. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said he thought that there was very little disposition to complain of the character of this year's Budget, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer was, so to speak, getting his eye in, and was playing cautiously at first before beginning to hit out. It seemed to many Members all to the good that this year the Chancellor should establish his reputation in the country for circumspection so that he might be more powerful in the future for taking strong action. They cared a good deal more this year about the Chancellor's mind than for his Budget. It was the modest prologue, they hoped, to a very considerable drama. Members on the Ministerialist side of the House felt that the Budget was the pivot round which the success or failure of this Parliament would turn, and the attitude and action of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was a matter of supreme importance to all reforms. In one direction, this year promised to fulfil their highest hope. The text and burden of the Budget speech was economy. Ministerialists hoped next year for a great reduction in Army and Naval expenditure. He thought, however, that it would be a mistake to suppose that this Parliament was bound by any shibboleth of economy. Their main duty, he believed, was to make the position of free trade impregnable and to accomplish great social reform, and for both of these "economy" was not the last word. Should an emergency arise in future it would perhaps give the protectionist his opportunity unless new sources of taxation were opened during this Parliament. There were several social reforms necessary and they would cost money. A million or so would be required for education, a scheme of old-age pensions was hoped for, and many other things such as payment of Members. We wanted not only a doctrine of economy capable of enforcement but a new system of taxation capable of indefinite expansion. He was glad to hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was thinking about tapping another great source of possible revenue by increasing the licence duty. He considered that the well-being of the nation depended as much upon having light and just taxation locally as nationally. It was impossible to dissociate national from local taxation. The contribution of £10,000,000 in aid of local rates was much the most alarming part of the national expenditure at present. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would find it increasingly difficult to make a reduction of taxation owing to this enormous pressure to relieve local rates. £50,000,000 was at present raised by way of rates, and if this was allowed to go on the increasing demands for subventions would sweep away the benefit that might be derived from reduced taxation. The taxation of land values was a means by which the Chancellor of the Exchequer could place the system of taxation in a position impregnable against the assaults of protection. The right hon. Gentleman had a great majority behind him to enable him to do strong things, and he had the good fortune to be the head of the one Department whose actions could not be injured in the House of Lords. By placing local taxation no longer on the industries but on the land value of the country they might remove a burden from the people even more vicious than the old bread tax.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I regret that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should have left the House while his hon. friend behind him was giving him his instructions, rather than suggestions, as to what he should do in the future, in the next Budget he brings before us. I was wondering very much when I listened to the hon. Gentleman whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be grateful to his supporter for the manner in which he treated the subject. The hon. Gentleman in the first instance has explained that although he considers the Budget in its present form humdrum, or moderate I think was the term he used, it has to be regarded in connexion with the altogether different, immoderate, and sensational Budget which is to be brought in next year. He approves of the action of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the present occasion because, he suggests, he is earning a character for moderation as a preliminary to a course of revolutionary practices. While lesser people may possibly misunderstand the right hon. Gentleman's endeavours, he at any rate thoroughly appreciates the policy of appearing at the present moment as a wolf in sheep's clothing; having won esteem in the more amiable character of the sheep, next year we shall see the right hon. Gentleman as a raging, rampant, and daring wolf. The hon. Gentleman went on to tell the Chancellor of the Exchequer that his business was not what was generally understood as the particular work of a gentleman occupying his position and also to present him with a mandate. That mandate was to make free trade impregnable. The hon. Gentleman has perceived, as some of us perceived a long while ago, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will always want a great deal of money if he is to carry out the many mandates of his Party, and, knowing that the money cannot be obtained without an extension of the basis of taxation, he offers as an alternative a policy of confiscation, for it is nothing else. I confess I was not able to follow the hon. Gentleman clearly as he proceeded to unfold his argument; but he seemed to base his demand for this policy of confiscation not so much on the need of the social reforms that are to be accomplished as upon the increasing expenditure of local authorities. Does the hon. Gentleman agree with those outside the House who have been preaching that having given self-government to local authorities we should now proceed to control their expenditure? All I can say is that, for my part, I entirely disapprove of this definition of self-government. I say that this interference with local authorities, to whom you have given full control of local affairs, is a mistake, and cannot be made consistent with any theory of local government. Therefore, I cannot understand how the hon. Gentleman connects his suggestion to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the question of the control of local authorities. He seems to think, however, that unless local authorities are controlled their expenditure will be so large that they will be obliged to come to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for assistance, and to that extent encroach upon the money that would otherwise be available for social reforms; and he urges, therefore, that some form of direct taxation, such as land values, should be immediately undertaken. Land values may possibly be a proper subject for taxation. I say "may be." That is a point that I am not arguing at the present moment. But one thing I do say—they are not a subject for confiscation. When Mr. George wrote his interesting book, which made so great a sensation some years ago, he advocated that the taxation of land values was to go on until the value was taxed out of existence. That is confiscation. If it could be carried out, though it would bring many evils in its train, it is just possible that it would raise a sufficient amount of money to carry out the objects which the hon. Gentleman opposite has in view. But, on the other hand, if it is only to be brought in as another item of direct taxation, and if the taxation is to be moderate in amount, it will prove a barren source of revenue indeed. At any rate it will not give anything like the amount of money talked of as necessary to carry out the schemes of social reform. After the speech of the hon. Gentleman I might see an objection to it which I have never seen before. It reminds me of an experience of my own at the time when we were discussing in 1885 the old unauthorised programme, every item of which has since been carried out. One of the questions was graduated taxation, since carried out in the Bill of the late Sir William Harcourt. But at that time I had a conversation on the subject with Mr. Gladstone. He said to me—

> "I see you are advocating graduated taxation. In principle, I am not opposed to it, but I am opposed altogether to the graduation of the income-tax."

When I asked him why, he said—

> "Because I think the graduation of the income-tax might easily lead to confiscation."

That is interesting, not only in connexion with this matter, but as showing the drift of Mr. Gladstone's mind. In like manner, I would say to the hon. Gentleman that while I am willing to consider any new basis of taxation I am not disposed to favour his proposal, as it would lead to confiscation. The hon. Gentleman wants to get a great deal of money. I think I should not be wrong in supposing that he would like to get it from the very rich. "The capitalist is the enemy," as I saw it expressed in a speech made recently to this House. But there are capitalists and capitalists. There are capitalists who are more hardly pressed than people who, nominally, have less property. But the persons whom some of our friends, socialists and others, want to get at are the very rich men. The worst of all these quixotic attempts at mulcting the very rich is that they are ineffective. It is precisely the biggest capitalists who most easily escape. I am certain that if you try these extravagant proposals you will fail to get what you want. At all events, however much you may press the small capitalist, because he cannot escape you, you will never succeed in catching the big capitalist by measures of this sort. My suggestion is that the hon. Gentleman should go back to the greatest financier of English history—in this respect, at any rate—and that is King John. King John picked out a capitalist—a mighty man of the north, perhaps—and put him down in a well or a cellar, and pulled out his teeth, day by day, until the unhappy victim presented the requisite sum. There is finance which, for efficiency, has never been exceeded. It is quite as drastic as, and even more practicable than, the procedure suggested by the hon. Gentleman opposite, and it certainly would be much more effective.

On the last occasion that the Budget was discussed I said a few words on the subject without having had time for much reflection; and I come back to it now, again under the disadvantage—in which I am sure I have the sympathy of the House—of the absence of my right hon. friend the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, without whose aid we have not that access to a great deal of expert opinion which would make our comments more valuable. But I am confirmed by further reflection that this Budget is a composite Budget. There have been many hands in its making. It is a Budget that would not have been introduced if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had had his own way. At any rate I can see evidence that, when the right hon. Gentleman sat down to consider what he should do with the surplus which he owes to the moderate Estimates of his predecessor, he determined not to make a sensational Budget, but to take up one thing and to do it thoroughly. What I gather he intended to do was to make a really large contribution towards the reduction of the Debt. It would have been very wise on the part of the right hon. Gentleman had he carried out that idea, because by a large reduction of the Debt he would have given confidence to trade and steadied the money market, and thus benefited all classes of the community, but none more so than the industrial classes. But evidently the right hon. Gentleman was pressed with suggestions from various interests; and he proceeded to divide his surplus into a series of small contributions—or doles, as I may call them—to the most clamant of his critics, and it would seem that of them all the mighty men of the north made the most noise. So the coal-tax had to go. I have said that I thought the late Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to deal with this tax in any reduction of taxation. But what I do not know is whether my right hon. friend would have proposed to put it in the first rank, or whether he would have proposed to abolish it altogether. What I said about the tax the other day—which my hon. friend behind me has failed to understand—was clear enough. I said that the coal consumer in this country would not be benefited in the slightest degree by the abolition of the tax. No one will contradict that. Then who is to benefit? I believe the miners' representatives have an idea that the workmen in the trade would gain. It has not always happened that a rise in the price of coal to the consumer has been followed by a corresponding rise in the rate of wages. I think the coal miners will be very lucky indeed if they get that corresponding rise on the present occasion. But, putting that aside, the people who will most benefit will be either the coalowner, who will put the shilling in his pocket, subject to any concession he may be willing to make to the miners, or the foreign consumer. When I speak of the foreign consumer I am ready to recognise that the position may differ in regard to certain classes of coal. There may be coal which comes into sharp competition with foreign coal, and in regard to which, therefore, you will benefit the trade generally by reducing or abolishing the duty. Up to the present time in the Returns I have seen there is no proof that there is serious competition in British coal; but there will be, I venture to predict, serious competition with German and other coal. The expansion of production in Germany and France has been very remarkable. But that is not likely in the least to touch either the Welsh hard steam coal or certain classes of gas coal which are practically a monopoly. I have evidence from foreign sources to prove that the tax did not make the slightest difference in their purchases of these particular qualities of coal. Probably, therefore, it might have been worth while for the right hon. Gentleman to have postponed this change till he could have dealt with it in a scientific way, for he might have found that the tax of what is practically a monopoly might have been continued, and in that case it would have been very wise to earmark it for the further reduction of the Debt. The House will remember the sensation which was created by Professor Jevon's book on coal production, and although our stores of coal are now known to be much greater than he supposed, nevertheless it is true, after all, that the stores of coal are limited. And what Professor Jevons said is true, that long before you have exhausted the coal it will have become scarce, and therefore dear; and you have to take into account, at all events in periods which are not to be neglected in dealing with national interests, that we are drawing upon our capital, and that we ought to make provision for it. Mr. Gladstone, who took an immense interest in the subject, declared that while we lessened our capital in the shape of the export of coal we ought to lessen our Debt, for which it was a security.

As regards the tax on tea, I agree that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was quite right to reduce it. And for this reason: that tea is a thing which we do not produce in this country; there is no competition, and accordingly every penny of the tax, in theory at any rate, is paid by the consumer. I should like, therefore, to reduce the tax on tea as much as I possibly could, but by giving a little to one and a little to another the advantage of the reduction has been in my opinion lost. My prediction on that point has to a certain extent been confirmed by the declaration of the tea trade that they are unable to make a reduction in the small packets which affect the consumption of the working classes. I shall get the penny off because I buy tea in quantities of perhaps 14 lb. or 28 lb. at a time, but the working man who buys in 2-oz. packets cannot get any advantage, except that absolutely illusory reduction which is supposed to be represented by an improvement in the quality. The working classes have, on the whole, the quality which they like. The working man does not want an improvement in blends, which very likely he does not appreciate. What he wants is a tea to which he is accustomed, and of the quality of which he does not complain, a penny a pound less than before. Under this Budget he will not get it; and therefore I think it is a pity that, as in coal, so in tea, the changes which the right hon. Gentleman is making in this Budget will not advantage the people whom we most desire to help, but will advantage, as far as I can see, in an extraordinary way certain limited classes of very rich people.

I asked the right hon. Gentleman the other day, why did you deal with a single branch of the question of the taxation of tobacco? Was it as a free-trade question you dealt with it? If so, why did you not deal with it efficiently and completely? If you assume that the present system gives an advantage to the manufacturer of strips in this country, you will be justified, no doubt, in making an alteration; but if that is your case, why do you not deal with the much older and much more important duty which in the manufacture of cigars and raw tobacco gives a very considerable preference to the home manufacturer? It is not I who would attempt the change, but I do know that the very small amount of protection or preference which has been given to manufactured tobacco in this country has had the result of establishing some of the most successful industrial concerns, employing thousands and even tens of thousands of industrious people. If that is good, why not go a little further? Why strain at a gnat and swallow a camel? I ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will kindly lay on the Table the calculations on which he has based his proposal in regard to tobacco. I asked the right hon. Gentleman the other day why did he make the change? He gave me an answer which I did not quite understand. He said that one reason was that the duty brought nothing to the Exchequer. That is quite true, because of the large stocks in existence; but I suppose it would have brought something in time. But even if it did not, I would say that that is not the object with which it was put on. It was put on with the object of meeting an unfair preference in favour of the foreigner, with the deliberate intention of establishing in this country a business of which we had been wrongfully, as we thought, deprived, and it has led immediately to this remarkable change—that while factories for stripping tobacco have been closed in Holland, and factories have been closed elsewhere, factories have been opened here, machinery bought, and workmen employed. I will give some evidence which I think goes to show that at least 6,000, and probably more, people have been so employed. I am told that one stripper does 5,000 lb. in a year. Now the increase of leaf introduced into this country in consequence of the tax, leaf, therefore, which has to be stripped here instead of being stripped abroad, is an increase of 42,000,000 lb. Now if a stripper can do 5,000 lb. a year, 8,400 people will be required in order to strip that quantity of leaf. Surely the onus lies on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give us some very good reasons why these 8,400 people should be taken out of employment? It is not, in my opinion, in the least a question of free trade or protection. It is a question of keeping in this country trade which reasonably belongs to us, and which has only been taken from us by an unreasonable differentiation in favour of the foreigner. Put the foreigner and ourselves on an equal footing.

Mr. ASQUITH: The differentiation remains, but only at a proper figure.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The effect of the previous tax on tobacco was to give a distinct advantage to the foreigner. We made changes which I believe removed that differentiation and which we thought represented the differentiation. The right hon. Gentleman says, "I recognise the principle; I do not quarrel with it; but your differentiation was too great; it did not put the Englishman and the foreigner on exactly the same footing; therefore I have altered this differentiation to a halfpenny." From the sources of information at my command I am assured that the effect of this change will be that as the leaf which is now in bond is gradually cleared out, no more leaf will be imported, and that these 8,400 persons will be thrown out of employment. If that is to be the effect, it is no use telling me in these circumstances that a halfpenny is a sufficient differentiation. I say it is not, and that it is proved not to be. I hope, therefore, before we get into Committee the right hon. Gentleman will give us information so that we may judge for ourselves whether this constitutes a fair and reasonable differentiation. If he can prove that, our argument against that part of his Budget will probably fall to the ground. I remember on the occasion of the last Budget that my right hon. friend in making the change desired that we should have more experience and that it was a fair subject of inquiry whether the rate chosen was the right rate or not; but suddenly to make so great an alteration seems to me rather risky. May I ask also what is the intention of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to the rebate on stalk and offal? I understand that no change has been made in that respect. I am afraid that I have necessarily entered into some detail, but the Budget is always a matter of detail. We are certainly not going to oppose the right hon. Gentleman at the Second Reading stage of the Bill, but there are questions of some importance which will arise in Committee, and before hen I hope we shall have full information.

MR. ASQUITH: I have no objection to offer to the tone and the substance of the criticism which the right hon. Gentleman has made, and I will endeavour to reply briefly to his questions. First of all I will deal with the changes in the tobacco duties. The right hon. Gentleman asks, "Why have you singled out this particular item for a change? Have the tobacco duties as a whole not always contained a protective element?" I think that they have. I think that the tobacco duties do contain a protective element. They were established substantially on their present basis by Mr. Gladstone very nearly fifty years ago, and it must be remembered that the changes made and which prevailed then involved a higher degree of protection than anything that can be alleged against the new duty. The trade has gone on under the system, and whatever may be said against it as a violation of the free-trade principle, it produces a very large revenue. What is the case with this duty that I am altering? My predecessor two years ago made a change which had never been dreamt of. Strip tobacco had always come in at the same rate, because the process of handling which goes on before the leaf becomes a strip is so slight that no previous Chancellor of the Exchequer thought that it ought to be treated in a different category. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer took a different view, and he established a difference of threepence between the two. It was at once found that the change would not work, and the right hon. Gentleman made a concession as regards all strips then in bond, reducing the duty from threepence to a penny halfpenny. As a matter of fact, I am satisfied, from inquiries I have made, that the duty of threepence has never been an effective revenue at all. Strips could not have come into this country if they had continued to pay the duty of threepence. I agree that there ought to be a differentiation. Under my plan leaf will come in at 3s. and strips at 3s. 0½d.; and I intend to make a considerable revenue from that duty. I shall get a halfpenny more on every pound of strip that comes in, and if it is not a prohibitive duty and the strips can come in, then I am adding to the revenue of the country by the change I am making. That is why I am making the change. It will, in the first place, increase the revenue, and, in the second place, I am satisfied that the change is desirable. I have not had a single representation of any sort or kind from the trade in favour of retaining the difference between the two duties. The trade as a whole is well satisfied with the differentiation of a halfpenny. In answer to the plea of the right hon. Gentleman, I cannot lay my calculations on the Table, because they were made in my own head, and I cannot extract them. But I will tell him the materials out of which I have been induced to make the alteration. They will be found in the evidence and the Report of the Departmental Committee which sat two years ago, at the time when my predecessor made his Budget. Our estimate of a halfpenny as being the true duty difference between the strip and the raw leaf as well as our scale of drawbacks is based entirely on the evidence given before and the conclusions arrived at by that Departmental Committee. This is a case where you establish, under the shadow of a protective duty, an artificial trade. When you put on an artificial protective duty and encourage the growth in this country under unnatural conditions of a trade which is not a very desirable trade, judging by the sanitary conditions under which it is carried on, and the wages received are not the wages that any of us would care to adopt as a standard —the moment a Chancellor of the Exchequer comes along and says, "I am going to abolish protection," then you say that he is going to throw out of employment all these poor people. We have taken the greatest possible care in the matter. The stock of raw leaf now is so great and the stock of strips relatively so small that for a considerable time to come, by adapting themselves to the new conditions, these people will receive employment in the industry in which they are engaged. I am sure that this readjustment of the duty, which recognises the difference between the casual raw material, is acceptable to the trade in freeing it from hampering restrictions, and that in the long run it will redound to the benefit of the industry.

I come now to the more serious subject of the coal tax. What is the right hon. Gentleman's attitude with regard to it? Does he or does he not approve of its abolition? I really do not know. If he does, what is the object of the speech he has made? If he does not, then why not oppose the abolition openly and frankly, and move the omission of the change from the Bill? It is interesting to trace briefly the history of the right hon. Gentleman's opinions on the subject. He has told us to-day, repeating an argument used elsewhere, that the coal tax is one which falls on two classes only—first on the coalowner of this country, and secondly on the foreign consumer in the markets to which the exported coal is sent. It is an odd thing if that is so that there is not a miners' representative in this House who is not ardently in favour of the repeal of the coal tax; and I should be very much surprised if we find in the course of this debate, or in Committee, that any representative of the miners' interest will get up and endorse the right hon. Gentleman's contention that this change is for the relief and benefit of the coal-owner alone. Anybody who has investigated the history of the export coal trade since this tax was imposed will agree that the miner has suffered in his wages quite as much as the coal-owner in his profits. If it is the case that this is a tax that falls only on the coalowner, how is it the right hon. Gentleman said the other day that the coalowners and the foreign consumers would share between them the benefit of the abolition of the tax? Anybody who has investigated the history of the export coal trade since this tax was imposed, will agree that the miner has suffered in his wages quite as much as the coalowner in his profits. In the stress of the general election the right hon. Gentleman informed a correspondent that he was personally in favour of the repeal of the tax, which was imposed during the War, which had not answered the expectations formed of it, and which, he believed, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had intended to repeal at the first opportunity.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I said the same thing in the House the other day.

MR. ASQUITH: I know; that is the more remarkable. Having held the opinion, the right hon. Gentleman retained it after hearing the Budget speech, and it is only in the course of the last fortnight that he has discovered, what previously was hidden from him, that this tax, of the repeal of which he was in favour, which had not answered expectations, and which the late Chancellor of the Exchequer intended to repeal, was really an ideal tax from his point of view, because it fell only on the rich, and the great bulk of it was paid by the foreign consumer. If that is so, why touch it? Of all taxes in our tariff, it was the one most deserving of the right hon. Gentleman's commendation. My error is that I held the same opinion about the tax that the right hon. Gentleman held in January and seems to have held as late as April, and only changed in the first fortnight in May. As to the suggestion he made, that we should differentiate between the different classes of coal, and, while abolishing the export tax in regard to the bulk of the coal, retain it on that portion in respect of which we have a monopoly—that is to say, the first-class steam coal and some gas coal—my answer is that it would be impracticable. What proportion does the right hon. Gentleman think these classes of coal bear to the whole of our export? I am well within the mark when I say that they are not a quarter; and to keep the tax on that quarter would only disturb the trade without bringing any corresponding advantage to the revenue.

The right hon. Gentleman apparently does not object to the remission of the tea duty, but he thinks that the actual remission proposed will be entirely lost to the consumer. I observe that the right hon. Gentleman did not repeat to-day the language which he used on this subject in an address to a body called the Liberal Union Club, consisting, I should think, of credulous and not very well-informed people; because they loudly cheered the following statement—

> "This is the Government that comes in to redress taxation in favour of the working classes. On the contrary, what do they do? They give instead £2,000,000 to the wholesale dealers in tea."

Let me pause there. The cost of the sacrifice involved in the remission of a penny in the tea duty is £925,000; the acceleration of the change from July 1st to May 4th is estimated to bring the cost up to £1,000,000. The right hon. Gentleman said £2,000,000. It would really seem as if the right hon. Gentleman had become so demoralised in the protracted orgies of fiscal controversy that two and one were exactly the same thing to him. But when we have brought the amount down from £2,000,000 to £1,000,000, is it going, as the right hon. Gentleman suggests, to the wholesale dealers in tea? It is not a pleasant suggestion in such a contest, because throughout it is suggested that the Government are showing something like a corrupt partiality to persons supposed to have supported them in the country and in this House. I have obtained the best information as to what will take place. The wholesale dealers have already allowed the reduction, and as to the great bulk of the retailers, while it is true that they are not going, possibly in the majority of cases, to give a reduction of 1d. in the shape of a reduction of money price, they are giving it in the shape of an improvement in the quality of the tea they supply. The right hon. Gentleman sneers at that. If he had investigated the subject closely he would have found that one of the worst results of the heavy duty imposed on tea during these late years has been that the poorer consumer has been put off with stuff that he ought not to drink, as being bad for his health. I can see that one of the best results of this reduction of taxation is to be found, not merely and not so much in the lower price charged to the consumer, as in an improvement in the quality of something that has become a prime necessity of life. All the evidence before me corroborates the opinion I expressed that the full effect of this remission, either in the form of lower price or better quality, will reach the consumer. An hon. friend has just given me an interesting piece of information. He is a member of a board of guardians, and he tells me that on Saturday last the local grocer wrote to say that he would supply the workhouse tea at 1d. per lb. less than the previous tender. The right hon. Member for Derbyshire said, "You make great professions of reducing debt, and you only contribute another half-million out of revenue." I should have been very glad to apply a larger sum than half a million; and there were times, while I was framing my Budget, when I hoped to be able to apply a larger sum. But when I found that, partly by means of the old Sinking Fund of last year and partly by this windfall of the Chinese indemnity, I should be able to apply £13,500,000 to the reduction of the National Debt and reduce the gross debt of the country by £9,000,000, I realised that the taxpayer had a claim which could not be ignored to such benefits as he has received from this Budget. I entirely agree with my hon. friend that, in a sense, this is a provisional Budget. But such as it is, and having regard to the conditions which control production and to the general circumstances of the country at the time, I submit that no better use could have been made of the funds at our disposal, and that the criticisms of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham fall absolutely to the ground. I ask the House to give unanimously a Second Reading to the Bill.

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he wished to express the views of the agricultural interest on this Finance Bill. He listened for two hours and twenty-five minutes to the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but although he did his best to make himself acquainted with what was said, he confessed that, being the epitome and incarnation of agricultural distress in the eastern counties, he had been profoundly disappointed with the Budget. This Parliament was elected to pay every one out of every one else's pocket; but where did the agricultural interest come in? He should like to know how the duty on wheat hurt the Chancellor of the Exchequer, his constituents, or anybody else. They knew that when it was put on, the price of wheat went down, and when it was taken off the price of wheat went up. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might have imposed as much registration duty as he liked upon wheat and the agriculturists would not have objected to it.

MR. ASQUITH: Why did your Government repeal it?

SIR CARNE RASCH: Heaven knows; they would not have repealed it if I had been on the Front Bench. The hon. Member proceeded to ask why the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not take his courage in both hands and do something for them. He had a considerable surplus, and it would have been possible for him to have given a bounty upon every quarter of corn grown. Right hon. and hon. Gentlemen were always talking about people coming from the country to the town and the necessity of getting them back again; about the physical deterioration of the people; about the large number of spindle-shanked people walking about the streets, and so on, but here was a chance of making agriculture pay, at all events to some small extent. He always regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not consult the agricultural interest before he framed his Budget. Charles V. of Spain used to say that if he had been consulted by Providence before the world was created he could have given a good many useful hints, and if the right hon. Gentleman had consulted the agricultural interest they could have given him a good many useful hints. Rates in the agricultural districts were piling up, and he should like to know, if men were to be driven from the land as they had been in the past, how the Government were going to secure a virile population upon the soil or keep up a population which would produce sons capable of defending the frontiers of the Empire.

MR. RICHARDSON (Nottingham, S.) desired to offer a few sympathetic remarks in regard to the reduction of the tea duty. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had said that the consumer would not get the benefit of it, but he was of opinion that those purchasers who bought penny and twopenny packets of tea would get the full benefit of it. He did not speak as an expert but as a practical man. We had some 12,500,000 people in this country who lived on the border line of poverty and who bought these penny and twopenny packets of tea, and he said from experience that they would get the benefit of this relaxation of taxation. He offered his thanks to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the remission. He had

> "filled the hungry with good things and the rich he had sent empty away."

He was sure that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham would agree with him that competition did not range fiercest around the highest price but that it was keenest in regard to the lowest price. He was confident that the process of competition would place this benefit in the pockets of the very poor.

*MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not seen his way to reduce the income-tax. The right hon. Gentleman had himself admitted that it was impossible to justify a tax of 1s. in the pound in peace time. It was a burden upon trade, which affected not only profits, but wages, and tended to destroy the most valuable and readily available reserve upon which the State could draw in time of emergency. The right hon. Gentleman said that he had reduced the gross capital liabilities of the State by £9,000,000; but in making that calculation he had included a net increase of £4,600,000 in capital liabilities which ought not to have been taken into consideration, seeing that these charges were all provided with their own Sinking Funds which allowed for a yearly redemption of capital as well as payment of interest. The right hon. Gentleman had in fact reduced the Deadweight Debt by £13,500,000, and he therefore suggested that more good would have been done to the country if £11,000,000 had been devoted to the reduction of debt, and £2,500,000 to the reduction of the income-tax. The coal tax, along with the corn and sugar duties, was proposed by the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor for the purpose of broadening the basis of taxation, and should have been maintained at any rate as long as the income-tax remained at so high a figure. The corn duty, unfortunately, had two disadvantages; it gave rise to much misrepresentation, and it gave an excuse to certain bakers to increase the price of the loaf. In the case of the coal duty, however, there were no such disadvantages, and the revenue derived from it had been an increasing one ever since its imposition; for in 1902–3 it produced £1,991,767, and since that it had gradually increased until in 1905–6, it amounted to £2,183,973. When this tax was first imposed it was said that the mine owners would be ruined, the mines shut down, the export trade destroyed, and that the miners would suffer great hardship. The results derived from this tax had, on the contrary, justified its existence. It had provided a handsome revenue, and had caused the smallest amount of harm to the trade of the country. The total export of coal in 1900, the record year, was 58,405,000 tons, in 1905 it had increased to 67,160,000 tons. The total amount produced in 1900 was 225,181,000 tons, and in 1905 236,128,000 tons. The percentage of exports to the total output, had increased from 25·93 in 1900 to 28·4 in 1905. The House had been told that this duty inflicted a great loss on the export trade, particularly with Russia, Germany, France, Holland, and Belgium. In 1902, the total exports to those countries except France amounted to 15,800,000 tons. In 1905 they had increased to 19,745,000 tons. It was quite true the exports to France had decreased to a slight extent but, as had been pointed out in the Report of the Royal Commission which considered this question, that was due to other causes, particularly to the competition of Germany which had made the full use of her natural advantages and had come into serious competition with this country in the markets contiguous to her frontiers. One reason for the slight diminution in our exports to France was that our coal exporters did not try to meet the requirements of foreign markets. The methods of Germany were more scientific, and they insisted on cleaning, sizing, and sorting their coal in a way that was not done in this country. Of course no one would contend that a tax could be imposed without to some small extent interfering with the natural flow of the commodity taxed. But the figures he had given proved that the coal trade had suffered to a very small degree, and no tax could have been imposed which would have brought so large a sum to the Exchequer and at the same time caused so little harm. Who would benefit if this tax was taken off? The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said he was unable to take this tax off immediately because if he did the only persons to benefit would be the foreigners, owing to a clause contained in the contracts. He himself believed that only the foreigner would benefit. The miner certainly would not, because if he came to the owner for better wages the owner would refer him to that statement of the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman had reduced the duty on tea by 1d. and upon that he supposed the body which ought to be congratulated was the Anti Tea Duty League. But though the right hon. Gentleman had used the arguments of that body for this reduction he had not fulfilled their expectations; and they at any rate along with other tea producers were assured that this reduction would not be sufficient to benefit those who bought their tea in very small quantities. He very much doubted whether the poorest of the poor would benefit. But what of the future? What likelihood was there that in the near future the income-tax would be reduced? What the House had to realise was that next year the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have to find an additional sum of £1,000,000 to replace the loss of revenue caused by the remission of the coal duty for the whole year; another £1,000,000 to provide for a further reduction of 1d. off the duty on tea, so as to give a real benefit to the poorest of the consumers, and if the Education Bill passed a further £1,000,000 for the purposes of education. What possibility was there, with this probability of increased expenditure in the future and only a faint hope of a slight reduction in the expenditure of the naval and military forces, of a reduction of the income-tax ? He must also remind the House that the right hon. Gentleman this year had granted a sum of £135,000 for the relief of certain districts in respect of the education charges, and that the tendency of opinion, especially in the country districts, was that education ought to be more of a national charge; which meant that further grants from the Imperial Exchequer would be asked for. He did not hold with those who wanted the whole charge put upon the Exchequer, but he thought that this being a really national question the right hon. Gentleman ought to give further relief to local taxation on this account. What programme had the Party opposite for the reduction of taxation in the future ? The House had heard that when the social programme of the Ministerialists was entered upon there would be large demands upon the Exchequer for old age pensions, the feeding of children, and perhaps the clothing of them, the payment of Members, the payment of election expenses, and the payment of the light dues at present borne by the shipping industry. The social programme of the Government was bound to bring further demands for expenditure on the Exchequer, and he thought in a few years to come the right hon. Gentleman would rue the day when in a hasty moment he abolished the export duty on coal—a duty which brought him in a handsome revenue and the abolition of which prevented him from making any reduction in the income-tax.

Mr. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs) said although he did not agree with the hon. Member for Tewkesbury in his criticism upon the taxes selected by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for reduction, he was disposed to agree with him that the right hon. Gentleman would have done better to devote the whole of his surplus to the reduction of debt. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had told the House that at one time he had meant to take that course, and the best financial authorities, while pleased with what he had done, would have rejoiced still more if he had given effect to his original intention. The right hon. Gentleman in his Budget speech painted in strong colours the evils of a large floating debt. He showed how it not only destroyed the reserve forces of this country against emergencies, but by maintaining a constant drain on the money market hampered commerce and industry. This crippling effect, inherent in all forms of floating debt, was most marked in case of Treasury bills. The new ten-year Exchequer bonds, which might be regarded as semi-funded debt, were taken as quasi-permanent by insurance companies. But Treasury bills, favourites as they were with bill discounters, absorbed funds which would otherwise be available for current loans and discounts, and therefore formed a great factor in raising the rate of interest. It might surprise those who were not familiar with the figures to know the serious effect of even a comparatively small rise in the rates of interest. For the five years before the South African War, the average Bank of England rate was £2 10s. per cent., while for the five years from the beginning of that war the average rate was £3 14s., or £1 4s. per cent. more. Everybody knew that roughly the rate of interest charged on loans and discounts was determined by the Bank of England rate. The total amount of loans and discounts in the United Kingdom at any one moment, irrespective of loans made by insurance companies and private moneylenders, was estimated at £550,000,000. It would therefore be seen that an additional burden of £6,600,000 per annum, or in the five years £33,000,000, was laid upon the enterprise of the country, during the five years after the beginning of the South African War, as compared with the five years preceding it. The enhancement of the rate of interest was without doubt largely caused by the existence of the floating debt, and especially by the large amount of Treasury bills. If it were too late to make provision this year for the further extinction of Treasury bills, in which only a trifling reduction was being made, he would urge on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, so far as the future was concerned, that he should devote as large an amount as possible to the extinction of this form of floating debt. In addition to its other advantages he believed the right hon. Gentleman would by this course help to re-establish the credit of the country, and raise the price of Consols, even more rapidly than by the redemption of Consols themselves. Apart from all other considerations, it was an object of the first importance to get Consols to par, in view not only of the block in Irish land purchase, but of the other projects of social reform which might require the issue of stock. He might remark in passing that a rise in the price of Consols meant a general recovery in the price of other securities. It was often forgotten that the loss caused by the South African war was not represented alone by the £300,000,000 which that war cost. It entailed a fall in the value of securities of at least £1,000,000,000, and the re-establishment of the public credit would help to repair that loss, though unhappily not to the many who had been forced to sell since the fall began. While it was tempting to extinguish debt by redeeming Consols themselves at their present price, against this must be set the higher interest paid on the floating debt, and the general advantages of freeing the money market from the incubus of that debt. A subject which he proposed to bring up when the Bill was in Committee was the hardship entailed by the present method of assessing industrial and mining companies for income-tax. Under the present system no allowance was made for depreciation of land, buildings, or leases, nor of development work, while only a limited and often totally inadequate allowance was permitted for depreciation of plant and machinery. The result of the present system of assessment was that many companies had to pay income-tax on an illusory profit and in the extreme case might be bled to death by that tax. He knew a company which in seven years had paid only one dividend amounting to £15,000, and that was in its first year, whilst almost all through it had been paying income-tax, which had amounted in all to about £4,000. The income-tax, therefore, had in fact amounted to about 27 per cent., or 5s. 5d. in the £, on the dividend. He knew another company which had never paid any dividend, but which had paid income-tax, and he had no doubt many hon. Members could give other instances of the hardship of the present system. The simplest and fairest plan would be to levy the tax on the sums actually distributed in dividend, which was the course pursued in Belgium and in New Zealand, where, moreover, all allowance was made with the view of preserving the capital intact. Under this method the Revenue would not suffer in the long run, because all companies existed for the purpose of paying dividends, and, to provide against the case of a liquidation for the purpose of dividing reserves, the Revenue might be empowered to charge income-tax on the amount distributed in excess of capital subscribed in cash. The method he proposed would tend to preserve the life of the goose that laid the golden egg, instead of tending, as the present method did, to kill it.

*MR. HILLS (Durham) said he wished to associate himself with all that had been said as to the absolute importance of the reduction of debt. If in prosperous years in the past debt had been reduced instead of taxes remitted we should be in a far better position to-day. But dealing with things as they were, the country was confronted with a very large expenditure and a margin of income over expenditure which was very small. The only way by which the State could repay debt was by the income exceeding the expenditure. There was no royal road to wealth. Was there any prospect of the national income exceeding the expenditure to any great extent? He was very sceptical on that point. All the departments of the State wanted more money. It was said that this Parliament was pledged to economy; but for every mandate in favour of reduction they could quote an equally imperative mandate for increasing expenditure. All that was saved on the Navy would be swallowed up by the payment of Members or feeding of school children. All they could save on the Army would be wanted for old age pensions or something else. Besides those two great spending departments it was clear the Civil Service would cost far more in the future, because the standard of living had been raised all round. He saw no chance of reduction anywhere, but rather the potentiality of an increased expenditure beyond the dreams of the most reckless Chancellor of the Exchequer. If they turned to income he did not think the outlook was any more rosy. All the great items of income were stationary or showed no great elasticity. Customs were a falling market so far as the Chancellor of the Exchequer was concerned. A stage had been reached when present taxes ceased to show a natural increase and increased taxes produced a smaller revenue. Excise was levied entirely on food, drink, and tobacco. As a convinced tariff reformer he was opposed to food taxes. It must be remembered that it was a part of the scheme before the country that, although certain additional taxation was proposed on some articles, the whole plan contemplated a reduction of food taxation. In fact, all parties, whatever their fiscal creed was, agreed that food taxation should go. No doubt it would be possible to get more from income-tax, and he was in favour of the graduation of the income-tax, but even with a graduation he did not think the gross return from the income-tax would be more than £30,000,000, unless the tax stood at a figure far too high for a time of peace. On these three great sources of income he did not see the prospect of any great increase unless they increased the burdens to such an extent as to press unduly upon industry and to cause the country to suffer. The death duties stood at a very high rate. Eight per cent. was a very heavy tax on capital, and if those duties were increased he did not think they would get very much more from that source, as the number of big estates was small. Supposing, then, they went outside their present field to see what were the new sources of taxation that were suggested. There, again, he confessed he did not see a new field for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Of course they could tax land values, but he did not think that land was the Golconda that some land-tax reformers seemed to think. It was a very poor investment, and he did not think the Chancellor of the Exchequer would get very much out of it. And so they were met with a large increasing expenditure and an almost stationary revenue, and on every side demands were made for spending more money. It was perfectly clear that all these schemes of social reform would not stand still for want of money. The Government might say that they agreed with those schemes in principle, but they could not find the money. That attitude could not be maintained for long. The demand would become so overwhelming that all thought of economy would be swept away and the reforms would have to be carried out. Where were they to find the additional revenue? He would not go into the intricate question of the incidence of taxation; but it was a mistake to hold that ease of collection was the same thing as ease of incidence. A tea tax was very easy to collect and a tax on manufactures very hard to collect, but still it might be that the tax on tea would press more hardly than the tax on imports. Again, a tax on sugar was paid by every person in the community. If one man was 100 times richer than another he did not eat 100 times as much sugar as the poor man. The power of bearing the burden was also not equal, although our system seemed to take it for granted that equality of contribution was the same thing as equality of burden. But anyhow he did plead for a reconsideration of the whole scheme and basis of our taxation. He was not satisfied with things as they were, and he was not to be put off with any stock phrase like "taxation for revenue only." No doubt taxation was a dangerous weapon, but it was one that he desired to see used for the benefit of the whole community and not for one part of it only. The last word had not been said when they were told that no taxes should be imposed except for revenue.

*MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne) said he would confine his remarks to the reduction of the tea duty. Upon this point he was not altogether in accord with the observations that had fallen from his hon. friends on the Ministerial side, because he did not believe under present circumstances that a penny taken off the tea duty would find its way in all cases to the consumer. He wished to place before the House the position which the merchant found himself in. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had alluded to the fact that most of the tea merchants were found supporting the Government. But why was that? Because they were strong free traders? They submitted each year to the nuisance which was always associated with dealings in any article that was liable to taxation. If they placed upon their posters or labels a particular price, no sooner had the Chancellor of the Exchequer spoken than they had to send the billposter round with a slip to place on their posters indicating an alteration of price, whilst their labels would have to be destroyed. The result of all this was that the tea merchant only knew for twelve months what the regular price of his packet-tea would be. What was the position that this Budget placed the merchant in? If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had a big surplus next year and again interfered with the tea trade by taking another penny off the tea duty what would be the position of those engaged in the tea trade who had given the benefit of this year's remission to the consumer when they were faced with the difficulty of taking twopence off twelve months from now? They could only do it by decreasing the quality of the tea by one penny in the pound. Consequently they would suffer great inconvenience twelve months hence or cause dissatisfaction to their customers. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give some undertaking that they would not have to submit to these continued alterations in regard to the tea duty every year. During the last half-dozen years there had been hardly a year in which the tea duty had not been interfered with, with the result that whenever those engaged in the tea trade saw any indication of a surplus they at once reduced their stocks to the lowest possible amount, and when the expenditure of the country had been greater than the Estimates the tea merchants crowded into their warehouses as much tea as they could. There ought to be some understanding that they would not have these disturbances yearly, and when the tea tax was either increased or decreased it should be dealt with to the extent of twopence in the pound in order that the alteration might be given on a quarter pound packet which was the recognised packet in which most of the tea was sold in the North of England.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said that during the last election hon. Members sitting on the Ministerial side told the electors that they were the Party above all others to represent the working classes, and they were also great advocates for the free breakfast table. It seemed to him that under this Budget some of the necessaries and all the luxuries of the poor were very heavily taxed. With the exception of alcohol and tobacco the whole of the real luxuries of the rich escaped taxation altogether, because no import duties were paid on those luxuries. He might mention, as an illustration, silk, of which article over £13,000,000 worth was annually imported into this country. There were also such articles as motor cars, furs, toys, gloves, ornamental feathers, turtle soup and expensive foods, and various other things which were only used by the rich, and of which many millions of pounds worth were imported every year. All those luxuries did not pay one halfpenny of taxation. This was a system which the Chancellor of the Exchequer and hon. Members opposite were pleased to call free trade, which they pretended was for the benefit of the working classes. In 1894 the Liberal Government gave India a general tariff and the power of retaliation. Under that system India had prospered exceedingly and had twice been in a position to reduce the salt tax, which was one of the great necessities of the very poor in India. He was quite aware that Lancashire manufacturers vehemently protested against it, and said that they would have to pay the tax and not the Indian consumer, which proved that in some cases at any rate the consumer did not always pay these import duties. Why did the Liberal Government in 1906 refuse to the British Empire a privilege which they gave to India in 1894? Although a penny had been taken off the tea duty he doubted whether the very poor in London and our big cities would get any benefit whatever from it. They had been told that tea was an absolute necessity for the poor of this country, and yet the present Government were taxing tea to the extent of 90 per cent. of its value. The poor people had to pay nearly the whole of this tax, because there was no competition with an untaxed supply. In regard to the two shilling duty on foreign wheat the Ministerial Party gave the electors to understand that it would certainly raise the price of bread to double its present amount. [Cries of "No, no" from the MINISTERIAL Benches.] At any rate, if the posters were to be believed, a tax of 2s. on corn would have made the price of bread four or even eight times as much as it was now judging from the relative sizes of the loaves displayed. He had seen pictorial posters in which the "big loaf" was shown four or eight times as large as the "little loaf." He thought that might fairly be called the gigantic inexactitude of the big and the little loaf. The absurdity of that contention was shown by the fact that, even if the consumer had to pay the whole of the duty suggested by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, its amount would have been only one-tenth of a farthing upon a pound of wheat; while such a preferential duty would have enabled Canada to compete on equal or nearly equal terms with the United States. Members on the Ministerial side believed in the graduation of the income-tax, so that the richer a man was the more he would have to pay. But in regard to the duty on tea—a necessity for the very poor—the Chancellor of the Exchequer had reversed that principle, and made the burden fall most heavily upon the poor. The poor man paid two or three times as much in taxation for his pound of tea as the rich man. In the case of sugar, which was not only a necessity, but the raw material for some of our great industries, the tax was 30 per cent. Cocoa, which might fairly be called a necessity, for it was used by the very poor, was taxed to the extent of 1d. in the raw state and from 1½d. to 2d. when manufactured. He really thought that the Gentlemen opposite should not call this a system of free trade or free imports. Coffee was also heavily taxed, while nearly all the luxuries of the rich escaped taxation altogether. Some of the necessaries of the poor and practically all their luxuries were heavily taxed. This was the Budget supposed to be for the benefit of the poor, which the antiquated Cobdenite policy of the strongest Liberal Government of modern times had produced. If the luxuries of the rich were taxed home manufacturers would be helped by being relieved of that portion of taxation which the foreigner would have to bear, and home industries would be able to provide regular work at good wages for British working men. The Home Secretary received 13 per cent. on the money he had invested in jute mills abroad. The mills competed seriously with those of Dundee. The wages paid in the mills were from 1s. 8d. to 5s. a week for men, and 2½d. a day for women. Although it might suit the Home Secretary to get his thirteen per cent., it did not help the Dundee workers who had to compete with him, and who, if paid at the same rate as the workers in the mills abroad, would receive from 2s. to 3s. a week. He contended that all, or nearly all, of the small tax on wheat suggested by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham would be paid by the foreigner. The system of taxation put forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer might suit bankers, because they got more pickings out of foreign securities, the rich, because they were able to get their luxuries cheap, and people who had invested their money in foreign securities; but he hoped that before next year the Chancellor would have found a way to reduce the taxes upon the luxuries of the poor.

*MR. CAIRNS (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said that, as a representative of a constituency the name of which was synonymous with coal, he wanted to take the opportunity of expressing the gratitude of the Newcastle district to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for having had the moral courage to remove the coal tax, the incidence of which was peculiar and restricted. It was comparatively easy to listen to the voices of the many when a tax had a generally detrimental effect, but when a tax was obscured by its exceptional incidence, it was very much more difficult to demonstrate clearly to the country, and even to Members of this House, the lines upon which it should be removed.

The coal tax was a tax upon a section of our industries, nay, upon a section of a section, because it was only on the export part of the coal trade. Undoubtedly, other coal-producing countries had received a great advantage—practically a shilling per ton export bounty—by the imposition of this tax. This was easily demonstrable in the case of France, Germany, and even Spain. It was also clear that injury had been done to our own coal trade with Canada by America. The hon. Member for the Tewkesbury Division had admitted that the tax had done some harm, and coming from him that was a strong argument. As a proof that the tax was paid by the foreigner, he instanced the contracts now in existence which stipulated that in the event of the remission of the tax the whole amount must be allowed to the foreign buyers. Such contracts proved nothing as to the incidence of the tax. He knew of contracts which, in case of the tax being taken off, stipulated sixpence to the foreigner and sixpence to the British exporter. Did that necessarily prove that the tax generally was paid half by the foreigner and half by the exporter? He knew further of contracts when in case of remission the whole amount came to the exporter. Did that prove that the whole of the tax fell upon the British producer? Such facts afforded no explanation as to who bore the tax. They were merely incidents in commercial transactions. He was sure he would enlist the sympathy of hon. Gentlemen opposite when he stated that the coal tax had advantaged foreign countries to the detriment of our own. In these few brief words he wished to thank the Chancellor of the Exchequer for having had the courage to defer to a sense of justice rather than to mere expediency.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) said he thought that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might have, with some manipulation, given relief to income-tax payers whose incomes were small. He understood that the hon. Member for North Paddington had propounded in the Press a scheme for taxing bachelors. Nothing was said about spinsters, and other members of the fair sex, whom he would leave severely alone. When the limit of exemption was raised some years ago from £150 to £160 it was stated by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer that for persons with £400 a year or less, a sum of £160 for maintenance was a fair amount, and the relief granted was upon that basis. Well, that amount, £160, was ample for a single person, but it was totally inadequate for the maintenance of two persons, because extra rent, extra rates, and increased cost of living had to be taken into account. It was not for a moment suggested that the cost of two persons' living and maintenance was double that of one person, but it could be safely taken as one and a half times as much. It was for that reason that he suggested that the limit of exemption should be raised by 50 per cent. for married persons. That was to the extent of £240, leaving the present limit of £160 to single persons. Where there were children there should be a further relief granted, say, £20 per annum for each child. As this worked out a trifle over a shilling a day, it certainly could not be called extravagant, if clothes, food, medical attenance, etc., were taken into consideration. Let him take a concrete case. A man was married, and had two children. He asked that such a man should receive relief of £160 for himself, of £80 for his wife, and of £40 for his two children, making in all £280 relief if the total income was less than £800 a year. For other statutory abatements, other calculations would have to be made, but he did not wish to tire the House by entering into minutiæ. No doubt, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would say that this system of relief would cost a considerable amount of money. He thought that he could prove the contrary. Let him assume that no less than 50,000 families were to receive this extra relief. The cost to the revenue would be, at the very outside £200,000, or less than one-tenth part of the present yield of a penny in the £ of income tax for the relief granted was only £4 for the wife, and £1 for each of the children. But what did not these few pounds represent to a man who might have less than £300 a year! It might deprive them not only of luxuries, but of actual necessaries. He did not think the Member for Liverpool could have any idea of the struggle which such men had, to pay this heavy income tax to the State. Dealing with, say, 100,000 married couples suffering from taxation, there had to be eliminated first at least one-half whose incomes were under £160, and who, consequently, were already entitled to exemption. Fifty thousand remained who, if they possessed £240 a year would be entitled to the full £4 relief proposed to be granted, but of these 50,000 it might safely be calculated that another half would not have the full £240, and consequently the extra relief granted to them would not, on the average, amount to more than £2. The only persons who would benefit to the full amount of the £4 relief were those owning incomes of from £240 to £600. Dealing with children, relief only came in where the parental income exceeded £240. It would therefore affect a comparatively small number of persons, although at the same time it would be an extreme boon to those to whom the relief was granted. What he proposed was not altogether new, for already there existed a modicum of relief granted to married persons who earned their own living independently one of the other. Where he feared he should meet with the greatest opposition to his scheme was amongst the permanent officials of Somerset House, for it would appear to be their policy to throw every obstacle in the way of persons who, even now, were statutorily entitled to exemption or abatement. Several questions which he had already asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer on various occasions must have prepared him for some of the statements which he was about to make. The Board of Inland Revenue were continually making new rules and regulations, even after the sixty-three years existence of income-tax. He might mention their refusal to refund tax to a claimant if the dividends were not exclusively registered in his name. This refusal went as far as not to refund income-tax to a claimant on his share of a dividend in his name if any part of such dividend belonged to another person, and to refund to joint beneficiaries under any circumstances whatever unless a deed of trust or legal documentary evidence as to ownership could be produced to satisfy the Board. Now came one of the greatest difficulties. What was the kind of legal documentary evidence which was required to satisfy the Board? The Inland Revenue should issue such documents as, when completed and submitted, would satisfy them, but they declined to do so, and said that it was for the claimant to supply the evidence, which they would consider. They fully admitted that it was next to impossible for the claimant to produce any evidence which would satisfy them—an attitude worthy of Dickens' Circumlocution Office. Consular and notarial declarations had been produced where the claimant had sworn as to his income, but all of these had been refused. It was against these arbitrary decisions given by the Board of Inland Revenue that he would ask that there should be some appeal. It was absurd to suggest that a person with less than £160 a year who considered himself to be aggrieved should have to appeal to the High Court for a decision upon a legal point. Why not have a simple Court of Appeal where the claimant could state his case and obtain justice? As it was, the Board of Inland Revenue merely gave a decision, and if any argument was brought against them they gave the stereotyped answer that the Board adhered to their original decision, and if applied to again gave the second stereotyped answer that they had nothing to add to their previous communication, sometimes saying that they declined further correspondence.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Committed for Monday next.

HOURS OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

*Mr. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham) rose to call attention to the hours of railway servants; and to move, "That, in the opinion of this House, the hours of railway servants are still in many cases excessive, notwithstanding the operation of the Hours Act of 1893, and call for stringent action by legislation and administration to secure their reduction to a reasonable standard."

He said that he recognised the efforts which the Board of Trade had made in regard to the hours of railway servants, and the improvement which had taken place in the conditions and hours of this large class of public servants. That improvement was largely the result of public debates in this House, and was also due largely to the action of the hon. Member for Derby, who he trusted would take some part in the present debate, because he was an expert in this matter and would speak with far more authority than he (Mr. Alden) possessed. There was, however, notwithstanding the advance which had taken place, room for further improvement, both as regarded the number of accidents and the hours of labour, and he trusted that suggestions would be made during the debate for further dealing with this evil. He would like to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade on the interest he had already shown in this matter by the appointment of a Statutory Committee to examine and test appliances, with a view to minimising the danger to which men employed on railways were exposed. He had not the slightest doubt that such a Committee would be able to give satisfactory and sound advice to the great railway companies and to the Government itself. He believed that the hon. Member for Dulwich, who had just been returned to this House, did express an opinion when he was at the Board of Trade that this matter should be inquired into. But he was not sure whether that hon. Gentleman promised a Statutory Committee or not. At all events, he expressed an opinion in favour of it on behalf of a Government suffering at that time from mental and moral fatigue, but nothing was done. He was afraid that all Governments were inclined to give replies of that kind in regard to the appointment of Committees of Inquiry to all hon. Members who raised inconvenient questions, and that these promises were forgotten under what, he should call the pressure of less important business. He trusted, however, that this Government would not be content with expressing a mere pious opinion, but would take some action. Having heard so many expressions of goodwill in the House in regard to this matter, he was reminded of the saying of a late Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University, who, when asked if his branch of mathematics had any practical bearing, said—

> "Thank God, this branch of mathematics has never been disfigured by any practical application."

He trusted, however, that his remarks would be found capable of practical application. He would leave to the Seconder of the Motion, the hon. Member for Newcastle, the task, so far as illustrations were concerned, of proving their case, and would content himself with a very few words of historical survey and some few remarks about the hours of railway work. The Resolution referred to the operation of the Hours Act of 1893, more properly called the Regulation of Railways Act. That Act was the result of a Select Committee which sat for two years, and that Committee was itself the result of a serious railway strike in Scotland. There were two clauses in especial upon which the administration of that Act depended. One was to the effect that if it was represented to the Board of Trade by or on behalf of the servants or any class of servants of a railway company, that the hours of labour of those servants, or of that particular class, were excessive and did not provide sufficient hours of rest, the Board of Trade should have power to interfere. The other clause was to the effect that if it appeared to the Board of Trade upon any such representation, or otherwise, that there was any reasonable ground of complaint against any railway company they should have power to submit to that railway company a schedule of time for working which should bring the actual hours of working within reasonable limits, having regard to all the circumstances of the traffic and the nature of the work. Returns had repeatedly been called for by the House in regard to these matters, and had been supplied after long delay. It had never been felt, however, that those Returns were satisfactory or conclusive. The Act was a permissive Act, and it would be seen from the two sections to which he had referred that the onus of making the complaint as to the number of hours worked or any other unfavourable conditions fell upon the railway servant. Those who had experience of railway companies knew that those complaints when made must tell against the chances of a man's promotion, and that in many cases they led to his dismissal. Two days ago he got into a railway carriage where there were seven railway men who had just been relieved from duty. He entered into conversation with them and they complained of the length of the hours they worked. He said, "If, as you say, your hours are so long, why is it you do not make a complaint." They all smiled at him as if he were a child, and he knew the answer that they would give. They said, "If we made any complaint it would be traced, and if it were traced it would be all over with promotion for us and it might mean dismissal." His first point was that they could not expect the men to make complaints, because it was against their interest. His second point was that the Parliamentary Returns were not conclusive. His hon. friend on one occasion moved for a Return which was to be given in December, 1902, and three months notice was given of that Return. The railway companies made preparations accordingly. They issued circulars, and they would be very foolish if they had not done so, telling the officials that the hours of labour must be kept down. At all events there was a most astounding difference between the figures given for that year and those for previous years. In the Return for December, 1902, the number of cases of men working over twelve hours was given as 75,389. In regard to the next Return, which was called for in October, 1903, they did not have the same notice, and the number of cases of men who worked for over twelve hours leaped up to 99,586. Perhaps some hon. Members would say that the difference of the month in which the Return was taken accounted for the figures, but the difference was all in favour of the railway company, because December was the month of fogs and overtime, while in October the same considerations did not apply. The latest Return was asked for in May, 1905, but it was not received until February 1906, and even although the Board of Trade was undoubtedly doing its best he thought the railway companies might be made to quicken up their mode of giving these Returns. In March, 1905, on the Great Western Railway there were 4,821 cases of overtime, and of those cases 3,577 were cases of goods engine drivers and firemen and guards. On the Great Central, which employed a far less number of men, there were 1,871 cases, and 1,230 of those cases were in the same class of engine drivers and firemen. He should like to contrast those figures with those of the London and North Western Railway, who employed an enormous number of men, and was undoubtedly one of the most powerful organisations of men in the railway world. There were only 134 cases out of all the men employed on that system, of all grades, and 75 of those cases were cases in the same class of labour. He contended that if the London and North Western Railway could so organise their service as to reduce the cases of overtime to 134 per month, there was no reason why other railway companies should not be compelled to do the same. That would be a point for the Board of Trade to consider, it any railway company raised any difficulty and said it was impossible. The railways of Ireland were in this respect notorious. They were notoriously badly managed, and there would never be a revival of the prosperiy of trade in Ireland while they were managed as at present. He trusted the time would come when the Government of this country would see their way to nationalise the railways of Ireland. The general figures of the latest Return showed 73,686 cases of overtime, a decrease as compared with the figures of 1902 and 1903, though not so large a decrease as could have been wished. Of those 73,000 cases, 48,000 were of men working thirteen hours, 17,000 cases of men working fourteen hours, and 4,678 of men working fifteen hours. That was a very serious matter, and no one could be surprised that accidents occurred. Very responsible work was put on these men, and they were sometimes expected to take extra duty and work overtime when not in a fit condition. This surely was a matter that should come under the purview of the Board of Trade, and he was sure that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade would give his attention to it. Railway companies tried to explain away and minimise these matters as much as possible. For instance, the manager of the Taff Railway said that if they took every hour worked during the week by all grades of the service the overtime only averaged six and a half seconds per hour. That was minimising the matter with a vengeance, but the answer to that was that the law of averages might satisfy the railway company, but it would not satisfy the man who had to work fifteen hours, nor would it satisfy the right hon. Gentleman, this House, or the public. The Return did not give any idea of the changed conditions of work in this matter. During the last few years British railways had been Americanised; expenditure had been reduced by the carrying of heavier loads with bigger engines. He remembered travelling on an engine for a few hundred miles in the United States, and while he watched the fireman putting on, not two and a half tons of coal as it used to be, but five or six tons for his journey, he could not but contrast his work with that which used to be done on smaller engines. At the end of his journey the man was exhausted and could hardly step off his engine. The companies put men on these engines and doubled the work they had to do and gave no compensating benefit by way of shorter hours of labour, but treated them just in the same way as they treated the men years ago, when they did half the work. The facts he had stated were proved by the number of firemen, drivers, and guards now employed. Since 1901 up to 1905 the number employed had decreased on four railways alone by over 5,000—not because traffic had fallen off, but because heavier loads and bigger engines had sensibly decreased the number of trains sent out and the number of miles run by trains. While he did not blame the railway companies for economising in this manner, he contended that the men ought to have some corresponding gain for the extra work performed. He appealed for increased power to be conferred on the Board of Trade to enable it to deal more satisfactorily with all companies with a view to shortening the hours of labour. Under those powers there should be a compulsory Return at stated intervals of all the hours worked over twelve. If it was necessary to amend the Act of 1903 to that effect, the right hon. Gentleman ought to see his way to introduce an Amending Bill for that purpose. The terms of the Compulsory Order should be clearly defined, because, if it was left to the railway companies to give their Returns as they chose, the facts would never be ascertained. The only possible procedure was to have a systematic Return. If railway companies knew that a Return had to be made they would make arrangements accordingly. The number of sub-inspectors should be increased and their powers extended. The chief work of sub-inspectors was to take note of accidents after they had occurred and to hold inquiries in respect to them. The wiser thing in his opinion would be to prevent accidents and sufficient inspection would prevent them. If they had not sufficient inspection at the present time it also called for action on the part of the Board of Trade and more sub-inspectors should be employed. It was not much to ask. Inspectors were now going about all over the country inspecting other industries. This was one of the largest industries in the country, and it seemed to him that there should be this inspection which was as necessary for the public welfare as for that of the men themselves. If inspectors were told off to visit the danger points on railways he believed many accidents would be prevented, but the inspectors should visit those places unexpectedly if they wanted the inspections to effect their purpose. The hours worked by the men were far too long and should be reduced, by legislation if necessary. The words in the Act "within unreasonable limits" were interpreted as a twelve-hour day. Was it too much to ask that those words should be interpreted as a ten-hour day, which, he contended, was quite sufficient? A ten-hour day was sufficient for most workmen on the railway, and if they were worked more it would be at the risk of life and limb. He thought the President of the Local Government Board would agree with him that if they could reduce the hours of labour of railway servants they would do something towards the partial solving of the unemployed problem. As it was no new men were being taken on as drivers and firemen on any railway. The numbers were decreasing. That meant more unemployed. If there could be a reduction of the hours of labour more men might be taken on. The President of the Local Government Board had more than once expressed the opinion that the lessening of the hours of labour of those engaged in the working of locomotion and transit was one way out of the problem of the unemployed. Meanwhile the Board of Trade was in the position of guardian of the public safety, and he trusted the President of that Department would feel it to be his duty both in the interests of the travelling public and in the interests of a highly deserving body of men to make some definite statement as to legislation in the near future.

*Mr. HUDSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said he had to congratulate his hon. friend upon the excellent way in which he had opened up the discussion of this question. Had his hon. friend been an expert in railway matters he could not have done better, and he had considerably lightened his labours as seconder of the Resolution. He thought he could prove conclusively that long hours were not only prevalent to-day but were general. What was reasonably required was that not only should the Railway Regulation Act of 1893 be administered to the full but that that Act should be brought up to date. Might he trouble the House with a few general statements of the long hours of railway men as they existed to-day? Let them take the locomotive men on the North Staffordshire Railway. In October last year they ranged from eleven hours forty-five minutes up to fourteen hours forty-five minutes. The case of the goods guards at Wakefield, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, was reported to the Board of Trade; no less than ninety-six cases occurred in which men were on duty for twelve hours for the week ending March 7th, the average time for which these men were on duty being practically thirteen and a half hours each. On the North British Railway at St. Margaret's, Edinburgh, long hours had been worked in the months of August, September, and October, a typical case being that of a man working for six days from September 18th to 23rd, inclusive, the shortest being ten hours fifty minutes, two days at twelve hours, one day at twelve hours twenty-five minutes, one day at thirteen hours five minutes, and one day at thirteen hours fifteen minutes. The same man worked on October 23rd to 28th inclusive, and the lowest number of hours upon any one day was twelve, and the highest fifteen hours fifteen minutes. This was a locomotive man. On the same railway at Portobello the goods guards were working, and this was quite frequent, for thirteen, fourteen, and even fifteen hours a day, and it was a regular custom there for the hours of duty to exceed twelve per day. There was the case of a goods guard on the Caledonian Railway who worked seventeen out of twenty-four times on duty for more than twelve hours. In another case on the Barry Railway, the working for one man showed that for six days the consecutive times were thirteen hours ten minutes, fourteen hours thirty minutes, thirteen hours twenty minutes, fourteen hours ten minutes, fourteen hours forty minutes, and twelve hours twenty minutes. During a fortnight on the Brecon and Merthyr Railway there were no less than fifty-nine cases in which men were on duty for periods ranging from twelve to seventeen hours. On the Great Central Railway of England in the week ending October 28th, 1905, they had the following cases. On Sunday a goods guard worked thirteen hours twenty minutes at Sheffield station. On Monday, there were five cases of long hours, ranging up to fifteen hours forty minutes. On Tuesday, there were nine cases, ranging up to sixteen hours fifteen minutes. On Wednesday, there were ten cases, one of which reached nineteen hours fifty minutes. On Thursday, there were nine cases, ranging up to over fifteen hours. At Ardwick on the same railway, during one month, the hours ranged from a little over ten hours to eighteen hours per day, and at the latter end of the month, they found cases of goods guards who had been on duty thirty-two hours fifty minutes, while there were quite a number over twenty hours per day. Another case reported was that of the Swansea Harbour Trust. This railway was worked under contract, but the hours were terribly excessive. They ranged up to twenty-four, twenty-seven, thirty-six, and even forty hours duty at a stretch. It had been claimed on the part of the employers that the men did not object to those long hours. That was admitted, but the Board of Trade had no right to allow it, in the interests of public safety. There were many cases which were not correctly reported to the Board of Trade. He mentioned the case of a cleaner on the Midland Railway, who, after being on duty as a cleaner from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., after an interval of five hours rest, went on the foot plate of the engine as a fireman for twelve hours twenty-five minutes, and he contended that in such a case the railway company ought not to return simply the time he had worked as a fireman. The Great Northern Railway were also sinners in this direction. The greatest possible difficulty had been experienced at Bradford by the goods guards in getting relief when they had done a full term of duty. From their point of view, the maximum limit of twelve hours a day was too much, and at the very most that period should not be exceeded. A short time ago a report was made to the Railway Department of the Board of Trade that at Peterborough the locomotive men on the same railway worked up to eighteen hours a day, the hours worked being as follows—

	Hrs.	Mins.
Sunday - - - -	14	15
Monday - - - -	10	–
Tuesday - - - -	10	55
Wednesday - - -	13	15
Thursday - - - -	15	–
Friday - - - -	14	–
Saturday - - - -	18	33

There was also a case on the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, where a signalman worked eight or ten hours in his own cabin, and was then called upon to do fog signalling for several hours—a different grade of duty altogether. At Purley signalmen were called upon to perform fogmen's work after finishing their ordinary duties in the signal-box. This caused them to work extremely long hours. The following were few instances of this—

	Time on duty.	
December 18th, 1904.	Hrs.	Mins.
A man worked as Signalman	13	–
Resting -	–	45
as Fogman -	10	15
Total from start to finish	24	–

March 18th, 1905.

Ordinary duty.		Fogging duty.		Total time.	
Hrs.	Mins.	Hrs.	Mins.	Hrs.	Mins.
8	–	2	20	10	20
8	45	6	–	16	45
8	–	5	30	16	–

with an interval of 2 hrs. 30 mins. in the last case.

He would also mention cases on the North Eastern line. There was a case at Hull, which was still pending, though it was first reported to the Board of Trade in November, 1904. The hours of drivers there were very excessive. They ranged from eleven to fifteen hours and fifteen minutes. He was not blaming the Board of Trade at all, though he believed that under the late Administration there was a great deal of laxity, and it was not unusual for them to wait nine or twelve months, or even eighteen months, before any satisfactory reply was received that there had been an inquiry. In this particular case a reminder was sent to the Board of Trade in 1905, calling attention to the fact that it was nothing uncommon for the men to be on duty for thirteen or fourteen or even seventeen hours at a stretch. It was rather difficult to say when that inquiry would finish, if they let the company take their own time about it. Another class of case was that of station porters. He was prepared to admit that there was not the same degree of strain upon an ordinary porter as was put upon trainmen. Nevertheless, there was a limit of physical capacity, and there should be a limit of hours of work. One case was of a porter who worked from 6.30 a.m. to 9 p.m., with only 2½ hours for meals on a total of 14½ hours. The time from start to finish should at least be brought within reasonable limits. They were now spread over an excessive number of hours, and the case he had cited was typical of many of the porters on all the railways. Another case was that of the West Clare Light Railway men, who worked, according to the time-table, from twelve to eighteen hours a day. A light railway as compared with a trunk line in this country was of comparatively little importance, but the men on a light railway were worked as far as possible from the time they commenced to the time they left off duty. The railway companies got as much work as possible out of them. In the case he had mentioned this grievance was supposed to have been remedied, and he got a letter from the hon. Member for Derby on March 3rd of this year, informing him that the complaint made by the West Clare men had been put right, and that there had been a rescheduling of hours, which had satisfactorily settled matters. The most amusing feature of this incident was that when he received this letter he happened to be in Ireland, and made a few inquiries from the men who were well acquainted with the West Clare Railway, and one of the first questions he was asked was when was anything going to be done by the Board of Trade in regard to their long hours? That was after he had received the letter stating that the hours had been put right. He mentioned that merely as a typical case to show that even with the best endeavours of the Board of Trade through its railway department very little was done, and their representations had very little effect. Even when they secured a rescheduling of the hours they soon got back to the old system, and consequently they called for the rescheduling every year. What they asked for was a more stringent administration of this particular Act of 1893, if it was to be of any use whatever, so far as having a good effect in regard to shorter hours was concerned. The hon. Member for Tottenham rightly called attention to the Return for December, 1902, and this was proof positive that the hours could be reduced if there was a willingness to reduce them. They had been told that it was very difficult to bring the hours within reasonable limits, owing to the traffic and the nature of the work. He had worked for over a quarter of a century himself on the railway train. He knew that if there was a determination to keep the hours of duty within certain limits it could be done, generally speaking. They did not ask anything unreasonable. In cases of fog or accident it was quite possible that excessive hours might have to be worked in one or two cases. They were prepared to allow for these exceptional cases. What they said was that in the scheduling of the work there was no serious intention to bring the hours within the limit which the Board of Trade thirteen years ago considered to be reasonable, namely, a twelve hours limit. The Return for October, 1903, showed that in 64,624 cases men were on duty for thirteen hours; 22,046 for fourteen hours; 7,976 for fifteen hours; 2,673 for sixteen hours; 1,070 for seventeen hours, and 1,120 for eighteen hours and over. He wondered how right hon. and hon. Gentlemen would feel when riding comfortably on the railways to and from their duties in this assembly if they knew that the men working the lines were so long on duty. It was considered at the present day that after ten hours work a man's powers of physical endurance were at an end, and that he required a rest. In view of the development of railway traffic, and the higher tension both physical and mental upon the men now, he thought there should be a revision so far as the interpretation of the Act was concerned. The Act was permissive and it was within the power of the Board of Trade to call for rescheduling in all cases where the hours exceeded ten per day. Exceptions might possibly be made in the case of branch lines, or in connection with some grades of the service, but for all practical purposes on the trunk lines of the kingdom ten hours duty at the utmost was enough in the case of 90 per cent. of the men engaged in the manipulation of traffic. The workmen also said that the onus of complaint should be removed to the State department. It was a great deterrent to men reporting to know that their promotion might be endangered, or that they might not receive fair treatment if they were found to have reported cases to the Board of Trade. It was quite true that anonymous reports had long been allowed, but that did not alter the fact that it was possible to find the men who had worked long hours, and to ask whether they had reported. When he was in the service he had heard an inspector question men as to whether they had reported. It would not be difficult for the Board of

Trade to do in this matter something similar to what was done by the Home Office in the case of factories. He thought the Board of Trade might with advantage to the men, and the public generally, make inquiry wherever they found very bad cases. It was intended, under the Accidents Act of 1900, to take certain grades of the service which were considered dangerous under the supervision of the Department, in the same way as the Home Office undertook the supervision of factories. This was one specific matter to which the Board of Trade should give their first attention in the interest of public safety, as well as in the interest of the large number of men employed. He and his friends trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would accept the suggestions they had offered. They were new, but looking to the altered circumstances, and to the fact that the Act had been in operation for thirteen years, they thought that the time had arrived when there should be a change in its administration and definition. The twelve hours day which thirteen years ago was defined as a reasonable maximum was not suited to the altered conditions of railway work, and they thought it would be reasonable now to define the maximum as ten hours. He had great pleasure in seconding the Resolution.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, the Hours of Railway Servants are still in many casses excessive, notwithstanding the operation of the Hours Act of 1893, and call for stringent action by legislation and administration to secure their reduction to a reasonable standard."—(*Mr. Alden.*)

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said he only intervened in this debate because he represented a large body of Scottish railway men. During a strike on the North British Railway in 1890, public opinion in Scotland was much stirred at the revelation of the excessive number of hours worked by the men, and the instances of long hours quoted by the hon. Member showed that the Act of 1893 had a great deal too much elasticity about it. The instances given really showed that some action on the part of the Board of Trade was called for. He thought the Board of Trade had a public duty to perform in this matter, and that intervention was loudly called for. Anyone who considered the question from an impartial standpoint must feel that ten hours were long enough for railway men to work. The strike to which he had referred was for a ten hours day. In the case of signalmen he should say that if they worked eight hours a day a sufficient strain was demanded from them, having regard, not only to the men themselves, but to the public safety. He hoped the President of the Board of Trade would not only accept the Motion in full, but that he would feel that some kind of action was necessary on the part of his Department. Personally he had given hostages to fortune in this matter, because he had assured his railway constituents that there was now at the Board of Trade a Minister who would look at these questions with a sympathetic mind. He believed there was a strong case calling for investigation in the interest of the public, and he hoped that his right hon. friend would see that it was his duty, not only to make full inquiry, but to take action when the hours worked showed that the Act of 1893 had been evaded.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) desired to say a few words on behalf of the railway companies. He had no complaint to make of the temperate way in which the case of the men had been presented to the House, and as far as he knew the railway companies were not averse from any examination of the methods by which they carried out the administration of their lines. There were undoubtedly from time to time cases of overtime being worked by the men, but he thought that the number of such cases was smaller than hon. Members believed to be the fact. In regard to the Motion a great deal depended upon the view of the House as a whole as to what it would call "a reasonable standard." Some hon. Members would say that twelve hours a day, others that ten hours, and others again that eight hours formed a reasonable day's work, while some who had practical knowledge of railway work would agree that five hours on an express engine would constitute a sufficient strain on the mental and physical energies of a driver. It was, however, the general application of the principle of shortened hours to all railway men that the House had principally to consider. Of course complaints had been made to the prejudice of the men who made them. One hon. Member had said that these complaints were made anonymously; but he would point out that inquiry by the Board of Trade over such a large area into anonymous complaints was impossible. He himself had not heard of any case of dismissal or punishment as the result of an anonymous complaint. The Board of Trade made a yearly Report of proceedings under the Act, and on page 14 a table of cases inquired into since the passing of the Act was given. That showed that in the twelve years—1894 to 1905—there were in all 766 complaints. That was an average of seventy-seven per annum, and, as the Report pointed out, the figures for the last three years showed a great decrease in the annual average. It had to be remembered that there were about 600,000 men employed on English railways, and that no serious complaints had been made by any man confidentially or otherwise. In 1905, thirty-eight cases of complaints were received. In twenty-eight of these cases the Board of Trade reported that some action had been taken whereby the conditions would be improved, and in some of these cases the action had been taken voluntarily by the railway companies. With regard to the return which was made periodically for a stated month as to the number of railway servants who, during that month, were on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours, or who, after being on duty for that period, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest, the way in which that Return was made was disputed by the railway company as unfair to them. It did not show the hours of interval for rest or of the time taken in travelling to and from work. The objections to the form of the Return made to the Board of Trade were fully and clearly stated by Mr. Inglis, the manager of the Great Western Railway, who showed the arrangement made by his company for the relief of men in their employment. Similar representations had been made by the managers of the London & North Western Railway Company and other railway companies which he need not specialise. But he would take an example from the Midland Railway, which was one of the companies complained of, as to the goods guards being on duty for an excessive number of hours. He might state that arrangements had been made by most railway companies to relieve goods guards and engine drivers whose trains were delayed on the road, and as wages were paid for the time spent in travelling from the point at which relief was afforded to the usual destination of the man relieved, that time had to be included in the Return as overtime. Taking the Midland Railway Return, it showed that a goods guard had been on duty thirteen hours and forty minutes. But of that time six hours and twenty minutes were occupied by delays, and three hours in travelling to and from his work. In another case the gross time of a goods guard on duty was fifteen hours and twenty minutes, but the total time waiting and travelling was only eleven hours and twenty minutes, while four hours and thirty minutes were taken up in travelling home. The Committee presided over by Sir M. Hicks-Beach had pointed out that if an absolute standard of hours were insisted on the companies might be compelled to reduce the train service or even close stations in districts where there was very little traffic, in order to avoid the cost of the extra staff. The railway companies did not wish to overwork their men or to encourage overtime. They were fully aware that the safety of the public depended upon a man having his wits about him, and no man who was overworked and overstrained could give proper attention to difficult work. The driver of an excursion train might have six hours at the seaside out of twelve, and the shortening of his hours to ten would mean the shortening of the time of the excursionists at the seaside. The Board of Trade Return did not show the number of hours represented by delays and resting. Railway directors were not without feeling, and looked well after their men. The railway companies had nothing to hide or conceal from the House, and any inquiry instituted would receive every possible assistance from the companies.

*Mr. BELL (Derby) said he felt indebted to the mover and seconder for bringing forward the Motion. It had been his misfortune or perhaps his privilege to bring this Motion before the House nearly every session since he was returned in 1900, and he was not a little gratified on this occasion to have the assistance of two hon. Members who had dealt with the details very fully and had relieved him to a great extent of that task. He was also gratified to find that the right hon. Gentleman who was now at the head of the Board of Trade was familiar with some of the statements which he had put forward previously. At the time of the passing of the Act of 1893 he would admit that there was a great flurry in the railway companies' offices, and a tremendous drop in the long hours worked upon the railways. But, unfortunately for the men employed on the railways, the Government who brought in that Act were not in office very long to administer it, and during the reign of the late Government it was impossible to get the Act administered as it should be. He was hoping, however, for better things now, and he was prepared to give a reasonable allowance of time in order to see what the President of the Board of Trade was prepared to do. The Resolution was not of a very drastic character, and simply called for more stringent action by legislation and administration to secure the reduction of hours to a reasonable standard. The right hon. Gentleman had a very great deal of power over administration, and what he asked was, that this Act which had not been administered to anything like the extent it ought to have been should now be properly administered. In saying this he did not desire to reflect upon the action of the permanent officials of the Board of Trade, who of course were not called upon to frame the policy of the Department: that rested with the Minister at the head. Therefore he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade would pursue a more stringent policy with regard to administration, and if in a few years it was found that the Act did not give him sufficient power let him bring in a more stringent measure. It was quite clear that railway directors sitting in that or in the other House could not make themselves familiar with all the details of railway work, and even the head officials of the railways could not make themselves familiar with all the details; they had to collect them from the different districts and from subordinate officials. He asserted, however, that there were good grounds for believing that inaccurate Returns were sent to the Board of Trade. It was said that many of the railway men who worked fifteen hours spent six of them at the seaside, but that was not the case in many instances. His complaint was that the Returns were "cooked" before they were sent to the Board of Trade. That was, and always had been, his complaint. He held in his hand an original document in regard to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. He would not quote the exact time when the man went on duty or left duty, nor the date nor the place where the long hours occurred, because in previous cases where he had given such details as to overtime the railway companies had spent as much money in tracing particular cases as would, he believed, have sufficed to relieve the men of these excessive hours. When the case had been traced the men had been interrogated as to when they sent their complaint to him, and why they did so. The Return in question made out by the man showed that he went on duty at 4 a. m. and came off at 7.40 p.m. He was a goods guard so tnat at all events he did not have any six hours at the seaside. When this Return went into the superintendent's office deductions were made of periods of from ten to fifteen minutes and ranging up to fifty-five minutes during the course of the day. This was done in accordance with an instruction that in making out a long-hours form "travelling time, etc., should be deducted." In this way the man's time was reduced by six hours and thirty minutes, and was reduced to nine hours and ten minutes.

That was the way the time during which the man was on duty was reduced. He knew of a great many of these cases, existing upon other railways beside the Lancashire and Yorkshire. No doubt hon. Members who defended the railway companies in this House spoke in good faith, but the Returns were, he contended, dealt with in the way he had indicated. Moreover, if a man sent in a Return showing excessive hours, he might be chastised for doing so. With regard to the Return published under the Act of 1893 which had been referred to, there was a brief statement in it to the effect that the whole of the complaints under it from 1894 to 1905 only numbered 766 cases, and he remembered that when that Return was issued for 1904 the Secretary of the Board of Trade, Sir Francis Hopwood, made a very complimentary reference to the railway companies because in 1904 there were no more than eleven complaints under the Act. If it had only been a case of eleven complaints he would have considered the matter unworthy of notice, but, in a Return obtained for him by the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor in 1903, they found a very high standard of hours of overtime, namely, 99,506 in one month. That figure did not compare very favourably with eleven cases in one year. He had already explained the reason why complaints were not made by the men. He could not understand why extraordinary and unnecessary delay occurred in securing these Returns. He might mention in reply to his right hon. friend the Member for Epping that in regard to the Midland Railway, although he did not like to specify any railway, if his hon. friend would only inquire how many complaints he (Mr. Bell) had sent in from that railway company during the last eighteen months he would find that they amounted to an enormous number; indeed, so numerous were they that he should have required assistance to bring them down. This was shown by a document he received from the President of the Board of Trade dated the fifth of this month, which referred to men upon the Midland Railway who had worked excessive hours. Under no circumstances should men be permitted to be on their engines or with their trains for such an excessive number of hours. The Board of Trade had had an admission from the Midland Railway that these long hours were worked, and it should not be allowed. In his opinion also it was necessary that something should be done in order to check the Returns of the railway companies. He had been in conflict with the Department on several occasions and found that they had no method of checking those Returns. The method by which complaints were dealt with was that when complaints were received by the Board of Trade of long hours being worked, the railway company was applied to to supply a Return or schedule of hours worked over an area sufficiently wide to include the place complained of. The company sent the Return and it was then compared with that which he or the person complaining had sent in. If the statement of the railway company was favourable the Board of Trade said they could not further act. What he wanted to know was what guarantee had the Board of Trade that these Returns were accurate? He wanted some system by which they could be checked. If he sent in a complaint of men working an excessive number of hours and the Returns supplied by the company did not correspond or come up to the Return which he sent, why should the Board of Trade accept the Return of the company as against his? The Board of Trade was the judge in this matter, but the judgment was entirely on one side. What he wanted the right hon. Gentleman to do was, when he found the Return of the company differed from the Return of the complainer, that he should have some method of checking the accuracy of the Return. That could be done by an inspector or sub-inspector being sent down to look at the books in which the men signed on and off duty, and in which the facts appeared. The Act of 1903 would not be satisfactory until some such method had been adopted. If the right hon. Gentleman had not the power under the Act he hoped he would seek it. In any case it was in the interests of the men and of the public that such a course should be taken. Everybody knew that there were men on every railway who did not object to a few extra hours for a few extra shillings at the end of the week, but that was a matter that should be left out of consideration altogether. In one case in regard to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway he made a representation which ultimately resulted in the hours being reduced at one particular depôt. Immediately men who were not members of his society got up a petition to protest against his action. That was essentially a case where the Board of Trade having received such a petition should have sent their officers down to ascertain whether the statements made by those men were correct or not. He knew they were not accurate, and he was not afraid to say either in this House or outside that the men who signed that petition were men who did all they knew to keep in with the gaffer and to curry favour. The inspector who inquired into the serious accident at Broad Street in August, 1904, owing to the mistake of a signalman, attributed it to the excessive hours the man had been working prior to the date of the accident. The signalman in question had worked continuously 50 per cent. longer every shift than he ought to have done. In most instances of personal injuries or accidents to the public it was found on inquiry that the men concerned had not been working very long hours at the time of the accident, but it did not follow that they had not been working excessive hours for days prior to the occurrence, during which their alertness and energy had been sapped. He urged the Board of Trade to hurry the railway companies in the matter of presenting Returns. Surely it was not unreasonable to expect them to supply information to the Board of Trade much quicker than they were accustomed to do. He had called for Returns for five years, and he should continue to call for them until there was a substantial reduction in the hours of the men. On each occasion when he had called for a Return he generally got it from eleven to thirteen months afterwards. The companies could obtain information quickly enough when they wanted it for their own purposes. Let the Board of Trade be as smart. The hon. Member for Tottenham in his very interesting speech had referred to the statement made by the general manager of the Taff Vale Railway Company, who was great on averages, and who said the average overtime worked by the men on that line was 6½ seconds per hour, but the figures from which he produced his average were as follows:—314 men worked for 13 hours, 39 men for 14 hours, 21 men for 15 hours, 5 men for 16 hours, 3 for 19 hours and 7 for 18 hours and over in one month. The fact that the average worked out at six-and-a-half seconds was not much consolation to men who had worked for eighteen hours. Owing to the adoption of larger engines and other changes the number of engine drivers, firemen, and guards employed on four railways had decreased between 1901 and 1905 by 5,600 men. With such a reduction of numbers in four years, and with the excessive hours worked on the other hand, there was good reason why the President of the Board of Trade should co-operate with the President of the Local Government Board in an endeavour to get the Railway Companies to reduce hours within reasonable limits, and in that way help to ease the congestion in the labour market. He asked the President of the Board of Trade to consider very seriously whether he had power under the Act of 1893 to take stronger measures to enforce the reduction of excessive hours, and in particular to check the Returns furnished by the railway companies by means of inspection of their books. If the right hon. Gentleman had not got that power he hoped he would consider whether he should not, in the very near future, ask the House to give it to him. If the railway companies knew that the Board of Trade might pay surprise visits to their offices and inspect their books they would take good care that the hours worked by the men were kept within reasonable limits. The evidence given before the Royal Commission by the railway companies was that it was absolutely impossible to reduce the hours of their employees, but the Act of 1893 altered the matter to some extent, and the railway companies were able to fall in with it. The companies would be able to do so again, perhaps with some little extra expense and inconvenience at first, but that would soon disappear if the new conditions were met by the companies in an earnest spirit. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take the matter seriously in hand, and that by next year a great reform would have been made.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said they had just listened to a most able exposition by the hon. Member for Derby of the defects of the administration of the Board of Trade in regard to railways, and this Motion had been seconded by one of his oldest friends among the railway workers, the hon. Member for Newcastle, in an admirable and practical speech. He only wished to refer to two points. He wished to remind the House that although the Report of the Railway Hours Committee who sat in 1892 had been referred to, no allusion had been made to the suggestion made by Lord St. Aldwyn, who laid down that in his opinion a ten hours day was sufficient for the regular staff upon railways and an eight hours day for some signalmen. The Committee had reported that ten hours was a sufficient day's work and should be accepted as the standard, and he urged the President of the Board of Trade to adhere to that standard. The hon. Member for Derby had rightly complained of the intolerable delay which had occurred in obtaining Returns. Apparently it had been overlooked that in the year 1886 this House passed the Second Reading of a Bill which provided not for an occasional Return once a year, but for a Return once a month, if the Board of Trade required it, of all these excessive hours of labour. He wished to support most strongly the suggestion of the hon. Member for Newcastle that the initiative should be taken by the Board of Trade, so that the men should not be exposed to the risk involved in making complaints on behalf of their fellow workmen. The Board of Trade had ample power to obtain as frequently as it desired Returns of excessive hours. He hoped the President of the Board of Trade would follow the advice of the hon. Member for Derby and have these Returns checked, and the books inspected by an officer of the Board of Trade.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs) said the case of the railway servants had been stated in very moderate speeches. The cases of excessive hours given by the hon. Member for Newcastle must have made a deep impression on the few Members present at the time. For men to work fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen hours a day was beyond human endurance. That condition of things ought not to be tolerated. He regretted that some of these cases had not been brought to his notice before. He would be exceedingly obliged if hon. Members on both sides of the House would call his attention more specifically to cases in regard to which they would like him to take action. He agreed that a strong case had been made out for interference in many of these cases. For instance, in the case of the North-Eastern Company, subject to what he should find on investigation, he thought something ought to be done. The first complaint was made in 1904. He understood that the company made no defence of their action. They made promises of amendment, but that amendment was not forthcoming. He promised to look into the matter as soon as possible. He was not sure, without taking further advice on the question, whether the powers of the Board of Trade under the Act of 1893 were adequate to accomplish the objects which hon. Members had in view. The hon. Member for Derby, who was a great authority on these questions, suggested that they should check the Returns made by the railway companies, and that the Board should not accept without inquiry the Returns made by the railway companies.

*MR. BELL: When they differ.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that first of all the hon. Member contended that when the statements of the men were controverted by the railway companies there should be some sort of independent investigation. He thought that a very strong case had been made out for that. There were difficulties to overcome. One difficulty was that the Board of Trade was understaffed, and they had very few inspectors. It appeared to be the impression in some quarters that the Board of Trade had an army of inspectors and that they could send them off to West Clare, to places on the North-Eastern Railway, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, the light railways, and others to inspect them and report upon the hours of labour. As a matter of fact they had very few inspectors, and they were very much understaffed in the office of the Board of Trade itself. They were also very much overworked, and they would be very glad to get a ten hours' day for the officials. This was a question which they were considering at the present time. He agreed that where there was a conflict between the men and their representatives on the one hand and the railway companies on the other with regard to hours of labour and matters of that character, there ought to be an independent inquiry. He was satisfied that the Board of Trade had power to do that under Clause 1 of the present Act. There was no limit to the powers of inquiry, and his hon. friend should have no cause to complain in that respect. As to the delay in the issue of Returns, he could not without inquiry say why it arose, but he was perfectly certain it was not due to the Board of Trade. Certainly a delay of a year in the issue of a Return for a particular month was an extravagant time, and the railway companies should be wakened up. He promised to look into that matter carefully at the earliest possible moment. Other suggestions had been made of a much more sweeping character, and he was not sure that he had yet had time sufficiently to consider them. Up to the present they had proceeded on the assumption that twelve hours should be the maximum standard of labour, and a reduction to ten hours would have a far-reaching effect. A good many railways in the kingdom were practically working at a loss, and he really did not know what would happen with the poor old Cambrian Railway if the hours were cut down from twelve to ten. [AN HON. MEMBER: Let the State take it.] That raised a much wider question not under discussion. He did not know that he would agree with that suggestion, or that the State would make a good bargain. Shareholders could not be compelled to work a line at a loss. It was as much as many railways could do now to pay current expenses. It was not a question of what the railway companies said they could do; it was a question of actual results.

*MR. BELL said his point was that ten should be recognised as the standard, and beyond that the hours should be considered excessive, and in no circumstances should they be more than twelve.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the House must have more knowledge of the facts before adopting that view. Upon many light railways those who had put their capital into the undertaking never expected to see the colour of their coin again; but he was not prepared to enforce such a regulation against these lines or against small branch lines in the country, where the work was certainly not arduous and was carried on in a leisurely manner. If, however, the great main lines would conform to the twelve hours standard that would be a great step in advance. There had been only one champion of these companies in the debate, and he had been wisely chosen. He was a popular Member of the House, and the company chosen was the one against which there was the least complaint. The London and North-Western Company gave the least trouble so far as hours of labour were concerned; and if the right hon. and gallant Gentleman could persuade the other companies to conform to the standard of the London and North-Western Company there would be little to say; but, judged by that standard, their great rival, the Great Western, was notoriously bad. There was no excuse for such a rich and powerful company. With the little light railways in the country he had really some sympathy; they took their time and worked leisurely. There were the workmen on the Cambrian Railway—he did not think thirteen hours a day in their case would bring tears to the eyes of any man. He did not think there were many cases of nervous breakdown on the part of these men. His hon. friend the Member for Newcastle said he would make an exception in the case of branch lines, and would not enforce the same standard as on the busy trunk lines. It was not for him to criticise the management of great railways by men of ability and experience; but it seemed to him that when one great company had found it possible to adopt a twelve hours standard, pressure might well be brought to bear on companies like the Great Western and the Great Central to conform to that standard. In their criticisms Members had not done full justice to the Board of Trade. The Department had accomplished much under the Act. A few figures would illustrate this. A good deal had been said about goods guards. He would take the Great Eastern Railway, and he found from the Report that the percentage of days when thirteen hours and over were worked in 1895 was 19·78, but in 1905 it was reduced to 6·04. The percentage in the case of goods enginemen had also been reduced from seventeen to four. Many other instances could be quoted showing that a great deal had been accomplished. That a good deal more remained to be done he readily admitted. He would endeavour to carry the suggestions of his hon. friends into effect so far as the Act of 1893 would allow. He believed a great deal could be done with that Act. He wished the Board of Trade had greater power in individual cases. They had the power rather of suggesting schedules than of enforcing them. There was certainly the Railway Commission, but he was not sure that it was the best tribunal for dealing with hours of labour or for railway rates. But that was another story which he hoped the House of Commons would some day investigate thoroughly. He was obliged to his hon. friends for bringing this subject forward, and in the course of the next few months he hoped they would be able to clear up many of those cases in which there had been delay, and press the railway companies into conforming to the standard of twelve hours, which was rather high for any man.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, the hours of railway servants are still in many cases excessive, notwithstanding the operation of the Hours Act of 1893, and call for stringent action by legislation and administration to secure their reduction to a reasonable standard.—(*Mr. Alden.*)

MUNICIPAL POWERS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.), in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, craved the indulgence of the House in view of the fact that he had only just learned that he might have the opportunity to speak on the Bill that night. He said that the measure was of a very simple, he might almost say of a non-contentious character. Nothing was more remarkable in our social life in recent years than the rapid growth of municipal trading. It was remarkable not only for the rapidity of its growth, but also for its success, especially in connection with such undertakings as water works, gas works, tramways, electric lighting, and other spheres of economic production. Experience of many of the largest provincial cities in England and Scotland had shown that municipal trading, so called, had passed beyond the bounds of the experimental stage; and the result so far had been, as was proved by a Return moved for by the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton, a triumphant vindication of municipal enterprise. Not only did these undertakings pay interest on capital, and for a sinking fund, but there was a balance left over in each case for the reduction of the local rates. That was a very remarkable fact, and if one took the trouble to compare the towns which had undertaken many municipal works with those which had undertaken few, it would be found that the rates in the towns where there were few municipal undertakings were much higher than in the towns where there was great municipal activity; and the profits had gone in relief of the local rates. He could multiply indefinitely instances in which towns by means of municipal undertakings had relieved their rates, but it was unnecessary to do so. A wise policy for our towns was that of large extension, and they should free themselves from that fringe of slums which disgraced them. Towns should look forward and purchase and control a large area outside their present boundaries with a view to the future construction of roads, tramways, light railways and make other public improvements possible. These things should be considered in advance as they were in Germany, and if the policy he advocated was to be carried out successfully, it became obvious that a town must secure a wide belt of land around its present area. If they did that in advance they could buy land very cheaply and their future developments would be comparatively inexpensive and easily carried out. If room were left for healthy development the town of the future would be a very different place from what it was to-day. To realise this, hon. Members had only to go round London and see the huge towns which were growing up in places where, under proper conditions, we might have garden cities. Let them take, for instance, Tottenham, or worse still, Walthamstow. Walthamstow was built upon a site the natural beauties of which were so great that he doubted whether they could be equalled in any part of the United Kingdom. It was on the borders of Epping Forest, but under the conditions now prevailing it was rapidly becoming a slum. It consisted of sordid-looking houses of uniform pattern. If they were to improve this condition of things they must give the municipalities power to purchase land in advance as was provided for in this Bill. If that were done, the land values would in future belong to the community instead of to the individual. He passed over the clause in regard to housing, because it dealt with some considerations of which he had been speaking, and in view of the few minutes at his disposal pass to the important fifth clause. That clause dealt with the problem caused by the fact that the State could not have, and had not, proper control over these monopolies that had sprung up, and were springing up, in this country. That very evening they had been discussing some of the evils which sprang from private monopoly of common services. It was the same question which the Government of the United States of America had to face. His proposal was that they should oppose to the private trust and private combination public ownership. By that means they would get, not only economic production and proper management, but the full result of the application of labour, capital, and material to a particular undertaking. If this course were pursued, real cheapness would be secured, which would contain no elements of nastiness. Let them take, for instance, the system of the distribution of that common necessity coal, which was permeated by the worst tricks of commercialism. If they gathered that distribution together under one control, and that a popular one, they would get the coal supplied to the consumer at a much lower price. That principle might, it was true, be taken up to the fountain head of the production of coal, but at least it might apply to its distribution. If we had economic production and distribution we should get the very best results out of our capital, and out of our labour, and we should thus settle not only the question of cheapness but the labour question, which was the greatest question of all. Then we should have our production and distribution conducted not for private gain but for public good. There would not be the incentive to make profit, but that of getting the very best result from our capital, labour and material. That was the principle of this Bill, the Second Reading of which he begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) thought that this was one of the most ridiculous Bills ever brought before the House of Commons. In the first place, the Bill provided that the local authority should be able to buy any amount of land without giving any reason whatever for doing so. In the second place the local authority could carry on any trade without giving any justification, and could in that way speculate with the ratepayers' money to any extent.

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at three minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 17th May, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London and North Western Railway Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Huddersfield Corporation Bill. Read 2^a, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Haslingden Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Clacton Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Water Works and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Savile and the Lord Haversham be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Willoughby de Broke and the Lord Suffield; read, and agreed to.

London and South Western Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [H.L.] Read 2^a (according to Order.)

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) Bill [H.L.] Order of the day for the Third Reading read, and discharged.

PETITIONS.

The EARL OF FEVERSHAM: My Lords, I beg to present petitions from several parishes and townships in the north riding of Yorkshire. The petitioners state that they are satisfied with the religious education given to the children by the clergy and teachers in school hours according to the principles of the Church of England, and they desire and pray that the religious education thus given may be continued in the future. These petitions have been signed by nearly every parent or guardian of the children in those several parishes.

EDUCATION.

Petition in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of England schools; of parents and guardians of children attending schools in Rivaulx; Wood Top; Bilsdale Midcable; Pockley; Hawnby; Cold Kirby; Helmsley; Eastmoors; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

CONVEYANCING BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of the Manchester Incorporated Law Association; read, and referred to the Select Committee.

SETTLED LAND BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of the Manchester Incorporated Law Association; read, and referred to the Select Committee.

MARRIED WOMAN'S PROPERTY BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of the Manchester Incorporated Law Association; read, and referred to the Select Committee.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUNDAY TRADING.

The evidence taken before the Joint Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee, and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order. (No. 87.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Statement of information collected by the Board of Education and the Foreign Office regarding methods adopted in great Continental and American cities for dealing with underfed children.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3587. United States (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho).

No. 3588. China (Wuchow).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE).

Order made by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire constituting polling districts and assigning polling places thereto.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS.

Twenty-third Report of the Comptroller-General of patents, designs, and trade marks, with appendices, etc., for the year 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Reserve Forces Bill (No. 88); Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill (No. 89); Local Authorities (Transfer of Treasury Powers) Bill (No. 90); Justices of The Peace (No. 2) Bill (No. 91). Brought from the Commons, and read 1ª, and to be printed.

POLICE (SUPERANNUATION) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The EARL of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

VISCOUNT RIDLEY moved, on behalf of Lord Barnard, an Amendment to Sub-section 1 of Clause 3. The Sub-section read as follows—

> "Where a constable of a police force to which the Police Act, 1890, applies has, in pursuance of a Royal proclamation, been called into actual service as a member of any Royal Naval Reserve force, or been called out for permanent service as a member of the Army Reserve, his period of service under that proclamation may, if the police authority think fit, be reckoned in the computation of approved service."

He moved to insert, after "Army Reserve," the words "or has been on active service with the Regular Forces as a Volunteer." He explained that the object was to make it clear that the same grounds which entitled a policeman to a pension if he was called into active service should also apply if he went on active service as a Volunteer.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 21, after the word 'Reserve') to insert the words, 'or has been on active service with the Regular Forces as a Volunteer.' ")—(*Viscount Ridley.*)

*EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, as I explained in moving the Second Reading, this Bill was mostly inherited from the late Government. This question of including Volunteers was considered in 1902, and the Bill of that year intentionally restricted it to compulsory service and left out voluntary service altogether. That was all that the local police asked for, and the view of the Home Office was that policemen could not properly be allowed to volunteer for military service to any large extent. Great inconvenience would be caused if policemen in large numbers desired to volunteer, and it is suggested that if they do so it should be in the position of private citizens. The only point with regard to this is that it makes permanent the provisions of the Bill which was passed by the late Government—The Police Reservists Act, 1902. I hope in those circumstances the noble Viscount will not press his Amendment.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: After the statement which the noble Earl has made I will not press the Amendment, but I would express the hope that the noble Earl will give my noble friend Lord Barnard an opportunity of discussing it with him.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

VISCOUNT RIDLEY, on behalf of Lord Barnard, moved to amend the provision which specified the cases in which a pension or allowance became liable to be forfeited wholly or in part, and permanently or temporarily, by adding the following sub-section—

> "Or if the grantee holds any licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail in the district of the police force in which he previously served."

The object of this Amendment was, he said, to make impossible scandals which occasionally arose in cases where ex-policemen took public-houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the district in which they served as policemen.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 3, line 10, after the word 'ground' to insert the following new sub-section, 'or (*h*) if the grantee holds any licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail in the district of the police force in which he previously served.'"—(*Viscount Ridley.*)

*EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, I am sorry that I am unable to accept this Amendment. The idea is that it would be a rather unreasonable disability to impose on policemen. It is very much to the public advantage that public-houses should be well conducted, and it is difficult to conceive any class in the community so likely to conduct them as well as pensioned policemen. It is thought, therefore, that by this Amendment you would exclude a large number of very well qualified people who would be able to keep the public-houses held by them in good order. I should be glad, however, if he insists, to consult with the noble Lord as to some arrangement with regard to the petty sessional district. To that, it is quite true, I should have less objection.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: I believe that what the noble Lord has said will entirely meet the views of my noble friend on whose behalf I moved the Amendment, and, with the consent of the House, I beg to withdraw it.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

LORD NEWTON moved to insert the following new clause:—"The words 'in which he has completed not less than three years approved service' contained in Section 4, Sub-section 4, of the Police Act, 1890, are hereby repealed." This was an Amendment which sought to remedy a grievance with regard to pensions which was occasionally felt in the police force. Under this Bill, and under the Act which was at present in operation, if a police officer moved from one force to another, or from one district to another, his service was disallowed for the purpose of pension unless he had passed at least three years in a particular district, although at the same time deductions from his pay were continually made in respect of the pension fund. The result of this was that a police officer, who presumably was moved on promotion because he was a capable man, was in a position of extreme disadvantage as compared with a man who had been continuously in the same place. He had been in communication with various chief constables of seventeen or eighteen years service, and some of these officers had been obliged to deduct four or five years from the period which counted towards the pension because they had been transferred on promotion to other districts without having completed three years service. He understood that the argument against remedying what appeared to be an injustice in this case was that if police officers were allowed to move from one district to another it would promote a spirit of restlessness and encourage men to leave in a capricious manner the place where they were temporarily employed. As far as he could learn, this was quite contrary to the experience of most chief officers. It was well known that men were not allowed to transfer without the permission of their superior officers, or presumably without the permission of the local authority; and, on the other hand, applications were constantly made from other districts for the services of capable and experienced men. If, therefore, officers of experience were required, naturally they had to be drawn from some other district, and it appeared to him to be distinctly hard upon these men that they should be penalised for their efficiency by suffering as regards their pension from the fact that they had been transferred from one district to another. It would be apparently absurd if an officer, for instance, in the Army were to be mulcted in his pension because he had been removed from one regiment to another, or from one branch of the service to another. It seemed to him that this was a well-founded complaint, and he hoped the noble Earl would be able to accept his Amendment, more especially as he understood it was only defeated by one Vote in Grand Committee in another place.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7 to insert the following new clause: 'The words "in which he has completed not less than "three years approved service," contained in Section 4, Sub-section 4, of the Police Act, 1890, are hereby repealed.'"—(*Lord Newton.*)

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, I am sorry not to be able to accept the Amendment. I cannot help thinking there is some mistake in the noble Lord's mind. I understood him to say that he had heard complaints from police officers and chief constables that they were obliged to deduct four or five years service. The clause merely concerns periods of less than three years service, and I do not quite understand how he is able to raise the number to four or five years. The reason why the Home Office are unable to accept the Amendment is that in their opinion frequent removals from one force to another do not tend to efficiency, These removals chiefly occur in the case of detectives, and it takes a detective very nearly three years to learn his work, to know the neighbourhood thoroughly, and therefore to become properly efficient, and it is really very hard on a district that when a police officer has just learned his work he should go away to another district. A good deal of his usefulness is, in such a case, wasted. It is quite true that the sanction of the chief officer would still be required, but it does place the chief officer in rather an invidious position. It is thought that the three years limit makes it somewhat easier for him, while it safeguards the public interest against abuse. Until a short time ago the limit with regard to this was seven years. That has now been reduced to three years, which is a considerable improvement in the position of police constables. There are really only two classes of cases in which it is supposed to act at all—first, where the officer has risen to the rank of chief constable, in which case he can generally serve on for another year or so and complete his term of service and get full pension; and, secondly, in the matter of detectives. In that case any officer who moves from one force to another does so of his own accord and with his eyes open. He is not obliged to go. Inspectors of constabulary throughout the country are in favour of the retention of the term of three years, as also was a deputation from the City and Borough Chief Constables Association which waited on the Home Office a short time ago.

LORD NEWTON said the noble Earl did not apparently entirely understand the Amendment. Supposing, for the sake of argument, that an officer moved from one place after having served two years and 364 days. That period would not count towards a pension. He might be removed to another district and remain there for a similar period, and so on, and he might have twenty years service, and yet, if he had moved sufficiently often, not be entitled to a pension at all.

THE EARL OF CARLISLE mentioned in support of the Amendment a case of a chief constable who had twenty-five years service, but who was unable to count five years of that period because he had been twice in districts for two-and-a-half years only, having been promoted for efficiency.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

LORD NEWTON said he would not press the Amendment to a division, as he understood that the noble Earl in charge of the Bill had agreed to a compromise, and was willing to substitute a period of two years for the three years in the Bill.

Remaining Clause agreed to, and Bill reported with Amendment to the House. Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. [No. 92.]

ALIENS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD WEARDALE: My Lords, I have the honour to move the Second Reading of this Bill, the scope and purpose of which it is necessary I should try and explain to your Lordships in a very few words. This Bill comes from the other House of Parliament, having passed through all its stages, I was going to say without comment, but certainly without any kind of Amendment. It was introduced on March 21st;† the Second Reading took place on April 9th;‡ it was on four separate days in Committee,§ and it was read a third time and passed on May 8th §§ Not a word was uttered either by the present Home Secretary, by the Under-Secretary for the Home Department, or by the late Home Secretary against the Bill, and it now comes before your Lordships almost as a white Bill without any kind of blot upon it introduced by factious opposition. Under those circumstances perhaps it is necessary that I should all the same explain what the object of this Bill is.

It will be familiar to most of your Lordships that in the Aliens Act of last year certain regulations were laid down under which alien immigration should not be permitted. It was first set forth that an immigrant should not be admitted if he had not the means, or was not in a position, decently to support himself. It was secondly laid down that he was not to be admitted if he was either a lunatic, an idiot, or diseased; and, in the third place, it was set forth that if he had been criminally convicted in his own country he should also be debarred from landing on our shores. Then there was a fourth proviso, that he should not be allowed to remain if an expulsion order had, under the Act, been made against him. The Bill which comes before your Lordships for Second Reading now is to add to that last proviso words to the effect that an alien shall not be admitted if he has been brought into the United Kingdom under contract to take, or has the intention of taking, the place of a workman during a trade dispute.

This question is not a new one. It was debated at very great length in the House of Commons during last session. It was first of all mentioned on July 3rd, in a preliminary debate on the Aliens Act, and there was an Amendment moved on July 10th† to carry out the very object which is set forth in this Bill, and at that time the then Prime Minister used these words—

> "Although he opposed the Amendment, he admitted that the Act limited the power of employers by providing that they could only bring in foreigners at wages that would enable them to decently live."

Therefore, he admitted that the Act was a restriction on the importation of foreign labour. It is difficult to say, when one remembers this fact, that an extension of that principle is in any way a derogation of the main purpose of the Act. The extension of that principle is demanded by all classes of labour in this country, and when one examines it fairly it is an extension to which I think no reasonable exception can be taken.

The Amendment to this effect moved during the last session of Parliament was supported by Members on both sides of the House. It went to a division, but it was not a strict Party vote, and it was rejected by 215 to 144. The matter came on again on the Report stage.‡ The same Amendment was moved, and on that occasion the figures were 230 as against 163. That there was and is a very strong feeling on this subject cannot be doubted, and I will give a single proof of that. Amongst those who were the most strenuous opponents of this Amendment was the Member for Stepney, Sir William Evans-Gordon, one of the most ardent promoters of the Aliens Act of last year. Sir William spoke and voted against this Amendment last session; but when the General Election took place I presume he came into closer contact with his constituents and found how strong the feeling was. The result was that on the very first opportunity, on the debate on the Address, an Amendment to the Address was put down in the terms of this Bill—put down by whom?—not by the representatives of labour, but by Sir William Evans-Gordon, the Conservative Member for Stepney, and seconded by Sir William Bull, the Conservative Member for Hammersmith.[†]

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 398.

‡ Read a second time without discussion, unopposed, after midnight.

§ See (4) *Debates*, clv., 1587; clvi., 124; 668.

§§ See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1288.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxlix., 131 *et seq.*

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxlix., 921 *et seq.*

It is true that this Amendment to the Address was not pressed, but why was it not pressed? It was not pressed as it was then announced that the Labour group in the House of Commons were about to introduce this Bill, and it was said by the various Ministers and ex-Ministers concerned in this matter that they reserved their criticism for the opportunity which would shortly be offered to them when this Bill came before the House. The Bill did come before the House. Neither the Home Secretary, as I have said, nor the Under-Secretary for the Home Department, nor the late Home Secretary said one single word in opposition to it. Consequently, I think I have a right to contend that a Bill brought into this House under circumstances like this does merit the attention, and I was almost going to say the sympathy, of this House.

Is this a matter which is of no moment and of no importance? I venture to affirm that this question of importing foreign labour at a time of trade dispute or strike is one of the most important and one of the most strongly contested questions at the present time. It is not confined to this country. I read in a leading German newspaper that at this very moment there is a shipping strike at Hamburg. This newspaper states that 3,000 of the workmen imported by the shipowners to take the place of the German workmen on strike were Englishmen, a circumstance which not unnaturally had provoked lamentable racial antagonism and bitterness. It is to avoid a similar condition of things in this country that this Bill has been introduced by the Labour Members in the House of Commons and has been carried to its present position.

There are undoubtedly two objections to this Bill which may, and probably will, be made in the course of this debate. The first objection is that it very largely increases the responsibilities and the duties of the Home Department and of that particular Department which has to deal with the immigration of aliens. I am an opponent—and I state it without the smallest reserve—of the whole principle of the Aliens Act, but so long as that Act is the law of the land let it be an Act which carries out all the objects for which it was contemplated; and, having set up that machinery, it ought without much trouble to be able to be so expanded as to prevent the immigration of workmen under contract at the time of a trade dispute. A trade dispute is a matter of common notoriety. Every one knows when there is a strike, and the workmen engaged in that strike would be on the watch to warn the authorities that an attempt was about to be made to introduce foreign labour, and therefore the plea that it is too great a responsibility to throw on the Home Office is not a substantial plea and ought not to be considered.

The second objection is that the Bill is a Labour Bill. I hope that is not the argument which is going to be employed in opposition to it. We all heard a good deal at the opening of the session about the young lions of the Tory Party. We have not, happily, heard much of their roar hitherto. This, it appears, is to be their first descent into the field of action. They choose for it a Labour Bill. It will be indeed a sad day for this country, a sorry position for this House, if it once becomes a rooted belief in the minds of the workers of this country that the House of Lords is not a Chamber in which their demands will be fairly and temperately considered, but an assembly to be regarded as a crematorium or cemetery in which all their legislative proposals are to be summarily and barely decently interred. I appeal to your Lordships to to give this measure, as a Labour Bill promoted in the interests of labour, the fair consideration it deserves, and to give the Bill, passed unanimously and without a single comment or protest by the House of Commons, the Second Reading to which it is entitled.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Weardale.*)

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: My Lords, I have put down an Amendment on the Paper, as the noble Lord will have observed, that this Bill be read a second time this day six months. I think, if I may say so, that the noble Lord who has just addressed the House has given us in his speech proof that he is a worthy representative of the class of which he has spoken, and has urged his case for the Bill in a more ample form at anyrate than was the case in the other House. When I put down my Amendment with reference to this Bill, I did so not only on account of the provisions contained therein, but also in view of the fact that, as the noble Lord has truly observed, not one syllable was uttered on any single stage of the Bill during its passage through the House of Commons. Whatever your Lordships' House may think of this Bill, I venture to say that when a principle of this kind is proposed, when a great change in the law of the country and in the principles governing the law of the country is put before this House by a private Member, it should be given the fullest consideration, and we should, at any rate, have the views of His Majesty's Government upon it.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clii., 851 *et seq.*

The noble Lord who moved the Second Reading observed that he would explain the objects of the Bill, and he explained them, if I may say so, in the most courteous and temperate manner; but, while giving us the objects of this Bill, he did not state one single reason for the adoption of those objects. The objects are perfectly clear. They are to keep out foreign labour coming into this country to take the place of English workmen during a trade dispute. There is no doubt about that; but I venture to think we ought to have some definite reason given other than the general plea of the interests of a particular class. We should have some proof that this change in our system would work to the advantage of the country, and also that there have been cases—and so far as I am aware there have been none—brought to the notice of those who ask for this Bill which go to show that this change in our legal system would be of benefit to the country. Now, what is proposed by this Bill is an advance on the Australian lines of labour legislation. It is for your Lordships to say whether that is right or wrong. The experience of Australian labour legislation has not altogether been a happy one, nor do I think the Australian Labour Party are altogether satisfied with the tendency of the legislation which they themselves have passed. Before this House takes a step in the direction of Australian labour legislation for keeping out contract labour we should give it the most careful consideration; for this measure, though it appears ostensibly as a Bill to amend the Aliens Act, is really one embodying a totally new principle and going beyond the scope of the Act which was passed by the late Government. The noble Lord the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs observed, in a debate in this House earlier in the session, that there was no doubt that the Aliens Act was working badly in certain respects, and equally no doubt it would have to be amended; and in the debate on the Address the Home Secretary, I will not say resisted the Amendment to the Address moved on the lines of the present Bill, but, speaking to it, he observed that he did not oppose it on the ground that it was a wrong one or that he objected to it in principle, but simply and solely on the ground that it was inopportune. The Government, he said, had so much in hand that they could not do it at the moment.

What this House has a right to know is whether this Bill is one of the Amendments to the Act which was mentioned as probably necessary by the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; whether this is the kind of Amendment to the Act which His Majesty's Government think desirable in the interests of the country. The noble Lord has told us that the Bill is desired in the interests of all classes of labour, and I think that if your Lordships will take the trouble to look at the names at the back of the Bill you will see that all the interests of labour are represented among the backers. There is no other name on the Bill except that of Sir William Evans-Gordon who, I admit, is a gentleman of great authority on this particular question. What we desire to know from His Majesty's Government is, what attitude they are going to take up on this Bill. We ask them whether they are going to desert their followers or desert their principles. Hitherto we have been able to congratulate them invariably on the great moral courage they have shown in throwing over their principles in order to run after their followers. Are we to congratulate them again on throwing over every principle they propounded during the debates upon the Aliens Act, and again this session through the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in order to let through a Bill which is admittedly in the interests of a large section of their followers, if followers is the right term to use for the Gentlemen whose names appear on the back of this Bill?

Let it be clearly understood that this Bill goes beyond the province of the Aliens Act. The principle of the Aliens Act, so far as I understood it, was not a protective principle. The idea was to exclude—and the noble Lord who moved the Second Reading of this Bill expressly enumerated the reasons which were to count for exclusion—aliens landing on our shores. He enumerated the reasons which made an alien undesirable, such as poverty, crime, or disease. Are we to travel beyond the principles enumerated in that Act and make it into a protective measure and a protective measure for a particular class? I would remind your Lordships that throughout the debates it was with the greatest difficulty that the Liberal Party were persuaded to consent to even the smallest instalment of the Aliens Act. They were opposed to it in the interests of free trade. Just as they were ready to admit all kinds of alien goods into this country free, so they were ready to admit all kinds of alien labour, presumably in order to swell the ranks of the Cobden Club. Is their new attitude to be a different one or not?

I confess that approaching the subject from the point of view from which I regard it, I am not without sympathy with some of the ideas underlying this Bill. I am one of those who regard it as the duty of this country to protect itself against a certain form of foreign invasion, but the Party opposite are taking one particular instance and one particular class and protecting that in one particular way. I say that it would be wiser to proceed upon some general principle than upon piecemeal legislation of this kind. After all, what is the particular class you are going to benefit? You are going to benefit a particular class of trade unionists at the very moment when you are proposing to confer extraordinary powers upon them and to place them in an exceptional position. I ask the House to consider very carefully what they are doing before they pass a Bill which, however much we may sympathise with some of its provisions and may desire to see some protection given to the industries of this country, proceeds against the principle of any measure which is at this moment the law.

Earl BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, I rise to reply to the speech of the noble Viscount, and I have to say, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, that they propose to treat the Bill in this House in exactly the same way as they treated it in another place. They took no part in the discussion in the other House, and I rise to say—though it may seem somewhat Irish to say it—that His Majesty's Government do not propose this afternoon to take part either on one side or the other.

Lord ASHBOURNE: That's not Irish.

Earl BEAUCHAMP: This is a Bill introduced into this House as it was into the other House by a private Member, and under these circumstances it is not proposed to exercise any influence His Majesty's Government possess over a small band of faithful followers in this House either to vote or abstain from voting on this occasion. If it is any satisfaction to the noble Viscount, I am happy to add that it is perfectly true that in the last session of the last Parliament an Amendment to the Aliens Act on the lines of this measure was moved in another place and supported by the whole of the Liberal Party; and I shall be very glad indeed, speaking for myself, to support my noble relative in the division lobby on this occasion. I would like to enter one word of protest against the reflection which it seemed to me the noble Viscount cast upon legislation of a similar character which has been passed in our Colonies. I do not think that the experience which we have been able to gain of similar legislation, either in New Zealand or more especially in Australia, would lead anybody to believe that it had been such a failure as the noble Viscount suggested. The noble Viscount taunted us with inconsistency. Surely we may say there is some inconsistency in his own position. The Chairman of the Tariff Reform League moves that a Bill, the object of which is the protection of an important class in the community, should be read a second time this day six months. It seems to me to be proof of a contention, which was often advanced in the course of last year by various Members of the Liberal Party, that the Tariff Reform League is more anxious to protect a certain section of the community, and that section the manufacturers, than to benefit the organised labour of this country. I can promise the noble Viscount that he will not be allowed to forget his opposition to this Bill, either by myself when similar questions arise or by a very large number of people throughout this country.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I confess I am not absolutely surprised at the reply which has been given by the representative of His Majesty's Government. The go-as-you-please principle seems to be the principle by which they have been actuated since they have been in power. When this Bill was put down for Second Reading by the noble Lord opposite, who has had considerable experience of co-operating with the Labour Party, I thought we should hear from him some explanation of this Bill. So far as discussion goes we are, as the noble Lord admitted, in absolute ignorance. This Bill passed through the House of Commons without discussion. Is that absolutely consistent with the conduct of the present Government when in Opposition last year? The Members of the present Government, when in Opposition, opposed the Aliens Act of last year tooth and nail, and yet we now find them endeavouring to make an addition to it by adding a provision which was not contemplated when that Act was passed. I venture to think I am justified, therefore, in saying that the opposition given to that Act in the House of Commons last year was not absolutely conscientious.

I ask noble Lords opposite to remember on what grounds the late Government introduced the Aliens Act. They introduced it on the authority of the Report of the Royal Commission, which declared that the unrestricted admission of aliens was injurious to the country. The Commission considered that it was the cause of overcrowding in our thickly-populated centres, and that the admission of aliens suffering from disease, and also criminals of the worst kind, was absolutely injurious to the interests of the country. The Royal Commission, therefore, recommended that some action should be taken, and the Act of 1905 was passed accordingly. But for this Bill no reasons have been advanced, not even in the House of Commons, by those responsible for it. Therefore, I had hoped that we might hear from the noble Lord in charge of the Bill, or from one of the representatives of His Majesty's Government, some reasons for the necessity of this Bill.

LORD WEARDALE: The ex-Home Secretary is a Member of the House of Commons. If he was opposed to the principle of this Bill why did he abstain from saying a single word upon it?

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I do not think you can accuse the Opposition with regard to what took place. There was no discussion.

LORD WEARDALE: Why not?

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: It was in view of that fact that I expected to hear a full explanation of the Bill from the noble Lord. I congratulate the noble Lord who introduced this measure on the temperate character of his speech, but I cannot congratulate the noble Earl on having given us any exposition on behalf of His Majesty's Government. I conclude that we shall hear from noble Lords opposite some clear exposition of the Bill and the reasons which have led them to support it in a rather half-hearted manner. This is a very big question. I know that in the other House Mr. Keir Hardie moved to include amongst undesirables such as are brought into this country under contract or to take the place of workmen during a trade dispute, and that he subsequently agreed to the omission of the word "or."

The question of employment under contract is one of an important character into which I do not propose to enter to-day, but the Amendments moved by Mr. Keir Hardie struck me as constituting the thin end of the wedge with regard to employment under contract. We have seen this course of action pursued unsuccessfully in the United States of America. We have seen it pursued unsuccessfully in Australia, where it has produced great complications. While I do not wish to enter into that question, I think your Lordships should realise how unsuccessful has been this principle in the United States and in Australia, and consider whether you will allow the thin end of the wedge to be introduced in this country. We have had experience here of strikes of various kinds. We have had strikes in which only individuals or companies have been injured, but we might have a strike of a gigantic character. There might perhaps in the future be a strike in some great industry with which is associated the welfare of the whole people, and in such cases would it be wise to forbid the introduction of men into the country who would keep the industry going ?

I am the last person to encourage the employment of foreign labour. I am a large employer of labour myself, and can speak highly of British workmen. It will be regrettable if the Labour Party consider that this House will ring the death-knell of their hopes and aspirations, and I was very sorry to hear the noble Lord make that observation in moving the Second Reading of the Bill. Many of us are closely associated with trades, and sympathise with those who work in them. The noble Lord in the first speech which he has made in this House has stated that the House of Lords has no sympathy with the labouring classes, but I think he will, before he has been many years in this House, have cause to regret that statement. The policy of the Government, to borrow an expression from the game of bridge, is "Leave it to you." There was once a Government known as the "Who, who ?" Government, and, if this Government continue to be guided by their followers instead of guiding them, I prophesy that they will be known to posterity as the "Leave it to you" Government.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, the noble Marquess who has just sat down might almost be held to be in the error that this was a Government Bill. It is not a Government Bill. It is a Bill which has come up from the House of Commons under peculiar circumstances, to which I shall allude in a moment, and which is brought forward by my noble friend behind me, of whose speech I will only say this, that I did not in the least understand him to say that he thought this House was likely to throw out this Bill because it was a Bill affecting labour. All that he did say was that if they threw it out they might be supposed to be open to an imputation of that kind.

What is the history of this Bill ? Its history is this. It passed through the other House of Parliament, without any opposition, without a single division, and I believe almost without criticism. It is a Bill which might have afforded to the Opposition in the other House that which most Oppositions delight in—namely, an opportunity for wasting time without being able to be accused of unnecessary obstruction; but even that delightful opportunity did not tempt them. They did not raise the smallest objection to this Bill. The occupants of the Front Opposition Bench in the House of Commons said nothing about it. They sent it up to this House as a Bill unanimously passed by the House of Commons. Noble Lords opposite seem to think that there is something inconsistent with the principles of their Aliens Act in this proposal. I am one of those who, like my noble friend behind me who introduced this measure, dislike the whole of the aliens legislation. I have always been opposed to that legislation, and if it had not been passed I should have been no advocate for this Bill. But, my Lords, you have had your aliens legislation; you have passed your Aliens Act; and this Bill comes up to us under circumstances which seem to me to make it reasonable to suppose that it is a consistent addition to the Act of last year.

Who was the protagonist of the Bill of last year ? No man more distinctly than Sir William Evans-Gordon, and I find from *The Times* this morning that upon the back of this Bill in the House of Commons was to be found the name of that Gentleman. Therefore, my Lords, my noble friend, in offering this Bill to your Lordships for approval, is only doing so upon the recommendation of one of the foremost of the advocates of legislation in regard to aliens. It looks to me very much as if the course taken by the Opposition in another place, of letting this Bill come up without opposition to your Lordships' House, was taken because it was not convenient to oppose this Bill in the House of Commons, and because they thought they might safely leave it to be thrown out by the House of Lords.

To that sort of proceeding I, in the interests of this House, enter my protest. I do not think that a great Party ought to send up to the House of Lords, without uttering a single word of disapprobation, a measure which they hope your Lordships will reject; and for that reason, if it stood alone, I should vote for the Second Reading. I think by so doing I should vindicate the true course of proceeding between the two Houses of Parliament. The noble Lord who moved the rejection of the Bill took a line which, coming from him, I confess filled me with great astonishment. The noble Lord is the Chairman, I believe, of a famous association of which the head is Mr. Chamberlain. I should very much like to know from the noble Lord whether, in taking the course he is now pursuing, he is quite in accord with the views of Mr. Chamberlain.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: Perhaps the noble Marquess will allow me to answer that question?

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: The course which the noble Lord has taken is highly inconsistent with those principles I have understood him to profess. He thinks it it inconsistent on my part to support this Bill because I am a free trader. I am for free trade in fiscal matters. I have never been for *laissez faire* in matters which relate to the interest of human beings. I draw the broadest distinction between those two things, and mainly, I confess, because of the mode in which this Bill has come up to us on this occasion it is my intention to vote for the Second Reading.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the speech to which we have just listened has not, I venture to think, greatly assisted your Lordships in endeavouring to deal with the extraordinary and difficult situation which has been created by the conduct of His Majesty's Government in regard to this Bill. Not for the first time during the course of the present session have we found ourselves confronted by the announcement that, in regard to issues of the utmost national importance, His Majesty's Government had no views of their own, but were content to leave the decision to the discretion of Parliament. That Laodicean treatment of great measures is, I submit to your Lordships, neither convenient nor altogether dignified.

In the case of this Bill the attitude of His Majesty's Ministers seems to me particulary inexcusable. The Bill is a small one, but it carries within it a new principle, and a principle of the greatest importance. To the best of my belief this is the first attempt that has been made in the history of our legislation to place restrictions upon the free movement of labour. What this Bill in effect says is that, if there be a labour dispute in this country, the employers of labour are to be precluded from employing men taken from beyond the limits of these islands. That is an entirely new departure. It seems to me to proceed upon the assumption that in these disputes the blame must necessarily lie on one side. The dispute may, however, be one in which either the employers or the workmen may be to blame, or it may be a dispute in which a genuine misunderstanding has arisen and neither side is to blame, and in such a case the greatest inconvenience might be created by a sudden cessation of the works upon which employers and employed have up to the present engaged their activities. What right have we, in such a case, to lay down that under no circumstances is a workman to be recruited from a foreign country—a workman who may be an absolutely respectable and harmless member of society, and who, therefore, clearly does not come within the categories we desire to exclude by the existing Aliens Act?

Observe what His Majesty's Government are doing. They are proposing, by other measures which are now before Parliament, to legalise what I believe is known as peaceful persuasion during strikes. They are proposing to extend to the funds of trade unions an immunity enjoyed by no other organisations, and now upon the top of all this they propose further to load the dice by intimating to employers of labour that, however blameless their conduct may have been, they are not to be at liberty to take the only measure which, perhaps, may enable them to extricate themselves from a great difficulty which suddenly confronts them. These are proposals which it would, in any case, be difficult for His Majesty's Government to justify; but they seem to me to be still more open to objection on account of the fragmentary way in which this great subject is being dealt with under the Bill on the Table.

I well recollect, both when the Aliens Bill was before your Lordships' House and again when the aliens question was discussed on the Motion of my noble friend Lord Newton, that noble Lords opposite, members of His Majesty's Government, made no secret of their dislike to the Act and of their opinion that it required alteration and Amendment. My Lords, that attitude I entirely understand. It is to my mind perfectly conceivable that the Act may be capable of amendment and improvement, but if it is to be amended and improved, let it be done by His Majesty's Government and on the responsibility of His Majesty's Government. We have been already told during this discussion that one of His Majesty's Ministers announced from his place in Parliament that it was too soon to undertake the task of amending the Aliens Act, and I think that was a perfectly sound opinion. Any of your Lordships who have followed the discussions to which the administration of the Aliens Act has given rise will have seen that there is a great deal to show that the hardships which have arisen in connection with the administration of the Act—and I quite admit that there have been hardships—are of a kind which are inseparable from the operation of a newly-introduced statute. Therefore, I think the Minister who asked for time before undertaking the amendment of the Act took a reasonable view of this important question.

But what his Majesty's Government are doing is this. They are, so far as I can make out, in the first place, doing what they can to knock the bottom out of the Act by administrative action, and now they come forward and propose to your Lordships that we should graft on to it this grotesque excrescence—that is really the only phrase I can find to describe it—which has nothing whatever to do with the purport or policy of that Act. It is to that proposal we are invited, on the Motion of a private Member, to agree this evening. If I were not unwilling to detain your Lordships, I would ask you to glance for a moment at the solitary clause of which this Bill is composed. I would ask your Lordships how the Bill is likely to operate if it becomes law. It is proposed to enact that a man is to be liable to exclusion as an undesirable

> "if he is being brought into the United Kingdom under contract to take, or with the intention of taking, the place of a workman during a trade dispute."

Now, my Lords, supposing that were put upon the Statute book. Conceive the position of the official or the Department called upon to ascertain whether a particular foreigner came into this country with the intention of taking the place of a workman who had gone out on strike! The existing Act has been severely criticised, and perhaps not entirely without reason, because it contains some provisions which are not very easy to administer or to apply. But, my Lords, what was called by one of His Majesty's Ministers the "dangerous legal laxity" of the Act is nothing to the dangerous legal laxity of the words which I have just ventured to read to your Lordships.

The question we have to consider is how we who sit on these benches, after the extraordinary statements to which we have listened, are to deal with the Bill before us. I would remind your Lordships again that it comes up to us as a private Member's Measure. We have been told two or three times to-night that it is not a Government Bill. I feel very strongly that, particularly in this House, we ought to think twice before we reject proposals made by the responsible Government of the day, particularly when they deal with questions affecting the welfare of a great body of our fellow subjects. I say that if this Bill, bad as I believe it to be, is presented to us with the full and deliberate approval of His Majesty's Government; if they will make themselves responsible for it; if they will undertake to see that it is properly drawn and, if necessary, to introduce Amendments with the object of making it a workable measure —if they will do these things, then I would venture to appeal to my noble friend and suggest that we should allow the Bill to pass, at all events, through this stage, and consider what further action may be necessary when we know more of the manner in which it will be handled by His Majesty's Ministers. But, if we are unable to elicit any such intimation from His Majesty's Government, if they consider the question of so little moment that they are ready to leave it to the judgment of the House, if they invite us to go as we please, then, having from them that distinct intimation, that distinct implication that the matter is not in their opinion an essential or vital one, we can have no other course but to vote with my noble friend behind me and to ask your Lordships to reject this ill-considered and unfortunate proposal.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, I venture, even at this last moment, to appeal to His Majesty's Government. We desire on this side of the House to pay every deference to any Bill which comes up to us from another place. But we desire to be guided as far as we can by the noble Marquess opposite, whom we acknowledge to be the Leader of your Lordships' House, and we ask him what action the Government propose to take in regard to this measure. Is that an unreasonable demand? There has been nothing said in defence of this Bill. How can you ask the House of Lords, with nothing said on behalf of the Bill and without the responsibility of His Majesty's Government, to assent to so great a change in the principles of our legislation?

I have made myself acquainted with what passed in another place, and I believe it to be true that, with the exception of a very few observations made by the present Postmaster-General during the discussions of last year, no member of the present Cabinet has really defended this Bill. The present Home Secretary no doubt spoke a few short sentences upon the Amendment to the Address to which reference has already been made, but in those observations, beyond expressing a bare approval of the principle which we are now discussing, he entered into no defence whatever of the provisions of this Bill or of the Amendment which embodied the principles. So that we have no guidance whatever. The only material observation which the Home Secretary made was the one referred to by my noble friend behind me, that he thought it was too soon to reopen the Aliens Act. That is the only intimation we have received from His Majesty's Government in another place of their view of this Bill, and to ask us to assent to it in these circumstances seems to me a parody of legislation.

If His Majesty's Government will put up one of their number now to say, "We will make ourselves responsible for this Bill, and will see that it passes in a reasonable shape, that it does not disgrace the Statute-book, that it is not unworkable and impossible of enforcement, and that, responsible as we are for the conduct of business in your Lordships' house, we will see that your Lordships do not make fools of yourselves"—if they will say that, there will be no desire to press this Amendment. But if they leave us to go as we please with regard to a Bill which it is impossible to enforce, and upon a principle for which they will not make themselves responsible, I venture to think public opinion in this country will never call the action of your Lordships' House into question if, under these circumstances, we find ourselves unable to assent to the Second Reading of this Bill.

When I look at the benches opposite I have a suspicion that, instead of there having been a whip issued in favour of this Bill, there has probably been one issued against it, or a hint to the effect that noble Lords who support His Majesty's Government would do well not to be present. When the noble Lord in charge of the Bill was accusing noble Lords on this side of a desire to come into conflict with the Labour Party in another place, I noticed that there were only nineteen noble Lords opposite ready to support him with their presence, and I do not think much of the defence of the Labour Party which the noble Lords opposite present, and the Government themselves are not able to say one word in defence of this Bill. Are they not ashamed of themselves? What will be thought by their Labour friends in another place when they read that His Majesty's Government were unable, as a Government, to support this Bill, that they were unable to give any guidance to your Lordship's House in this matter? I do earnestly hope that in the interests of the dignity of the House of Lords one of the members of the Cabinet will get up and say what line they, as a responsible Government, propose to take. If they do that, I can assure them, on behalf of noble Lords who sit on this side of the House, that we shall place no further obstacle in the way of the Second Reading of this Bill.

LORD JOICEY: My Lords, I am not surprised to hear the speeches on this question which have been delivered by noble Lords on the front Opposition Bench. It is another of many illustrations I have seen with regard to legislation which has been brought forward by one Government or another. When I had the honour of a seat in the other House I opposed the Aliens Act. That Act was brought in by a Conservative Government, and, as is the case with all Bills which are brought in by a Conservative Government, they never intended legislation to go beyond the actual Bill that they drafted; but from my experience I have always found that once you admit a principle that principle goes into various quarters that were never intended. Had the Aliens Bill not been rushed through the House of Commons we should not have had such a Bill as this brought before us. I consider, therefore, that this Bill is entirely the result of the action of the Conservative Party.

I am surprised at the position which noble Lords who oppose this Bill have taken up. They do not appear to object to the principle of the Bill. What they say is this. If His Majesty's Government will father the Bill, then they will not oppose it. It is not that they oppose the principle itself. They oppose the Bill because it is brought in by a private Member. I fail to see any difference whatever in the principle, whether the Bill is brought in by the Government or by a private Member. I cannot help thinking that noble Lords who oppose this measure do so on other grounds than principle. I have an idea what those grounds are, but I am not going to state it. I think the probability is that they are considering what effect their action will have on the country.

I do not view this Bill with great alarm. I am an employer of labour, but I have never known a case in connection with the great industry I represent where any attempt has been made to bring foreign labour in to compete with the home market. I cannot think that this measure will have any very serious effect one way or the other. Another reason why I do not hesitate to support this measure is that it was passed unanimously by the House of Commons. I am somewhat surprised to find noble Lords opposite offering such strong opposition now to the measure, when their colleagues in the other House never said a single word against it. If the principle is so bad—and I am not going to defend the principle—that it is likely to lead to serious results, I fail to understand why it did not meet with strong opposition from the Conservative Party in the House of Commons. I certainly cannot take the responsibility of helping to throw out a simple measure of this sort when it has been passed unanimously by the other House, and on that ground I shall support the Second Reading.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): I did not understand whether the noble Viscount moved his Amendment.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: No, I did not move it.

On Question, that the Bill be now read 2^a, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 24; Not-Contents, 96.

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MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order): An Amendment made, Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendment to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. [No. 93].

EXTRADITION BILL [H.L.], STREET BETTING [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to order.) Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committees negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª To-morrow.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Earl RUSSELL: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government if they are prepared to extend the scope of the reference to the proposed Royal Commission on certain actions of the Metropolitan Police so as to cover the action of the Metropolitan Police generally, and the practical working of summary jurisdiction.

A certain amount of interest has been created lately in the action of the police owing to the arrest of a lady named Madame D'Angely in Regent Street, and in consequence the Prime Minister has promised a Royal Commission to inquire into the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness and solicitation in the streets and the manner in which those duties are discharged. I have placed on the Paper the Question standing in my name partly for the purpose of eliciting information as to precisely what the terms of reference to the Commission will be, and partly in the hope of persuading His Majesty's Government to extend somewhat the scope of the reference.

There are many who have taken considerable interest for some time in the manner in which the Metropolitan Police have carried out their duties and in cases, as they believe, of injustice and oppression, and even where false evidence has been given in the hearing of charges in the London Police Courts; but it is generally necessary to wait until some popular interest of this kind is aroused before one can hope that anything will be done. I therefore desire that this opportunity should not be lost of inquiring more fully into the matter. The Prime Minister has stated that the reference to the Commission would be in the terms of his speech—the terms that I have stated to the House—but I notice in this morning's papers that, in answer to Sir Edward Clarke, it was stated in the other House that—

> "A Royal Commission will be appointed to inquire into the administration of the existing law and to make any recomendations thereon. It will not be charged with the duty of making recommendations for the amendment of the law."

I do not understand how the Royal Commission are to make recommendations on the existing law or even to say it is defective without, by implication, at least, supporting an amendment of the law; and it seems to me that it may place technical difficulty in the way of receiving evidence if the Commission are not allowed to make recommendations for an amendment of the law if such is necessary.

The particular case which has excited so much interest is not one to which I need refer in any detail. It is merely one instance which has aroused popular attention. If the Home Office and their advisers were satisfied, as we gather from everything that has appeared they were, that this lady was wrongly arrested and wrongly charged, it does appear to me that the best thing would have been to offer her a handsome apology for the treatment she received. I understand that nothing of the kind has been done, but that in the hope of establishing an *ex post facto* case it has been hinted that this woman has been shadowed by detectives since. There have been many similar cases. There were the cases of Randall and Dunn and a woman named Daniels, who were charged with being drunk and disorderly. What happened was this. One person was arrested first, and the two others, considering there was no ground for the arrest, went to the police station and asked that their names should be taken as they wished, when the case came on, to give evidence. The result of these two persons desiring to give evidence was that they were immediately arrested and themselves charged with a similar offence. When the case came before Mr. Denman he said that people who gave evidence without being asked always discounted the value of that evidence. It is a new proposal to me that the best evidence is that which is dragged from a man and not that which he gives voluntarily and from a sense of duty.

There is, I admit, a good deal of difficulty in the cases that occur. Everyone recognises that the police in London have a very difficult duty indeed in preserving order in the streets at night, and I do not suppose any one would suggest for a moment that it is impossible to make perfectly honest mistakes at times. But there is a suspicion, which does not seem to be altogether ill-founded, that sometimes when the police make a mistake that mistake is not at once frankly admitted and an end put to it, but an attempt is made to bolster up the case among representatives of the force by perjured evidence. I hope the reference to the Royal Commission will not be limited to include only inquiry into the duties of the police in dealing with cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct in the streets, but will include inquiry into the general conduct and general management of the Metropolitan Force.

I have asked whether His Majesty's Government would be prepared to extend the scope of the reference so as to cover the practical working of summary jurisdiction. That may be a matter which is of sufficient importance to be referred at some future date to a separate Committee of Inquiry, but it must not be supposed that the present working of summary jurisdiction always produces justice. The very way in which it is arranged sometimes leads to injustice It has worked very satisfactorily in the punishment of minor offences, but I cannot quite share the optimism which is expressed in the statement in the Memorandum to the Criminal Appeal Bill which has been introduced by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, that no alteration is required in the conditions of appeal in questions of summary jurisdiction, because an essential preliminary to an appeal to quarter sessions is the entering into recognisances. Those may be fixed by the magistrate, and in a recent case, of which I happen to have personal knowledge, an ordinary labourer, as a condition precedent to his appeal, was required to find two sureties in £40. That practically meant that he was not in a position to appeal at all, and I cannot regard that as satisfactory. I do not press that the inquiry should include this very large subject, but I do ask that His Majesty's Government should allow the Royal Commission to inquire, not only into cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct, but into the whole action of the Metropolitan police force generally, the method of its control, and of its management and discipline.

*LORD KINNAIRD: My Lords, before the noble Earl replies I desire to say a word or two with reference to the first part of the Question. I understand that the police magistrate in this case said that no woman of decent character had any right to be in Regent Street between 11 and 12 o'clock at night. Regent Street is a great centre where large numbers of work-girls are employed, and there are many institutes for their benefit in the neighbourhood in connection with the Girls' Friendly Society, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Polytechnic. There are also the concerts at the Queen's Hall and other places of innocent recreation to be borne in mind, as making it desirable that such a magisterial utterance, if it was really made, should be made the subject of qualification. It is difficult to know who should be called upon to make comment upon any unwise things that may be said by police magistrates. A large number of people are not at all satisfied with the cynical remarks they sometimes make. The police magistrates do not always seem to be willing to co-operate with those who, by their philanthropic work, are doing their best to make the streets more respectable than they now are. I hope the proposed Inquiry will be wide enough to enable the public to be informed whether people can be protected from the kind of remarks to which I have directed attention.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, it is quite impossible for me to offer an opinion on the point raised by Lord Kinnaird. It will be obvious that a judgment on the propriety of a magisterial expression of opinion must entirely depend on a knowledge of the precise form of words used. As I have no details of that kind I cannot enter into the subject. With regard to the Question of the noble Earl, I am afraid my reply must be equally unsatisfactory to him; for what I have to say is that it is very important that the Royal Commission should deal promptly and finally with the special question put before them. I am sure your Lordships will agree that there are few things more important than that the public should have confidence in our Metropolitan police force; and if there is any such feeling of discomfort in the mind of the public as has been suggested, it is all the more necessary that the report of the Royal Commission should be made with the least possible delay. The enlargement of the terms of reference in the way suggested would indefinitely postpone their report.

EARL RUSSELL: Can the noble Earl say exactly what the terms of reference are?

EARL BEAUCHAMP: I have not got them with me.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 17th May, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Bury Corporation Bill [Lords]; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Barton-upon-Irwell, Cheshunt, Dorchester (Amendment), Eton (Rural), Hexham (Extension), Stourport and Kidderminster, and Uxbridge and District (Extension)," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 215.]

Poole Corporation Water Bill. "To authorise the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Poole to acquire the undertaking of the Poole Waterworks Company, to construct additional waterworks, and to supply water within the said borough and the neighbourhood thereof; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Derby Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill; Metropolitan Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments. Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Manchester Corporation Bill. Reported, with Amendments [amended Title]. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 4).

Sir GEORGE DOUGHTY reported from the Committee on Group 4 of Railway Bills; That the parties promoting the London Outer Circle Railway Bill had stated that the evidence of Oliver R. H. Bury was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Oliver R. H. Bury do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That Oliver R. H. Bury do attend the Committee on Group 4 of Railway Bills To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP G.).

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON reported from the Committee on Group G. of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, etc.) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Ashton-under-Lyne (two); Burley; Chiddingfold (two); Clydach-on-Tawe (two); Hale (two); Kingston-upon-Hull; Llandefaelog-fach (two); Llanguicke (two); Llansamlet (two); London; Lower Peover (two); Middleton; Nottingham; Otten Belchamp (two); Oystermouth; Paddington (two); Plaistow; Port Eynon (two); Ripley (Yorks) (two); St. Pancras; Stoke next Guilford (four); Walgrave (two); Walthamstow; Walthamstow and Leyton; and, Winchester (two); to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.

Petition of the Temperance Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO.

Petition from South Shields, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from the Royal Burghs of Scotland, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.

Petition from St. Marylebone, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from South Shields, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF WHISKY BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

STREET BETTING BILL.

Petition from St. Pancras, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (CHILDREN) BILL.

Petition from Dundee, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRAWLERS' CERTIFICATES SUSPENSION BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TUBERCULOSIS (ANIMALS) PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION BILL.

Petition from Argyll, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL

Petitions against; from Blaby and East Retford; to lie upon the Table

VOTING DISQUALIFICATION (POOR LAW) REMOVAL BILL.

Petition from Argyll, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TAXES AND IMPOSTS.

Return ordered, "showing (1) the Rates of Duties, Taxes, or Imposts collected by Imperial officers; (2) the quantities or amounts taxed; (3) the gross receipts derived from each Duty; and (4) the net receipts and appropriations thereof in the year ending the 31st day of March 1906; and (1) the aggregate gross receipts derived from all such Duties, Taxes, or Imposts under the principal heads of revenue; (2) the aggregate net receipts; (3) the charges of collection; and (4) the produce, after deducting these charges, on each of the ten years ending the 31st day of March 1906; and notes to show any changes in the Taxes, Duties, and Imposts consequent upon the acceptance of the Budget proposals of 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 274, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Vacancies in the Central Telegraph Office.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will give the reason for the delay in filling up a number of appointments now vacant in the class of overseers and senior telegraphists at the Central Telegraph Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The promotions were sanctioned yesterday. They involved a good deal of inquiry.

Bristol Telegraphic Delays.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether complaints have been made with respect to the delay on telegraphic messages passing through the Bristol telegraph office; whether the timing and coding of messages passing through or emanating at, Bristol have been altered by official instruction in order to minimise delay; whether the transmission of telegrams at that office has been interfered with owing to the reduction of staff in the instrument room; and whether he will investigate the whole of the circumstances connected with the administration at that office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have given the circumstances referred to by the hon Member my attention.

Atrocities in the Congo State.

MR. BENNETT (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attention of His Majesty's Government has been drawn to the disclosures of the Rev. H. M. Whiteside respecting a continuation of atrocities in the Congo State; whether His Majesty's Government are aware that the statements of Mr. Whiteside point to a state of affairs now prevailing identical with that discovered more than a year ago by the Congo Commission of Inquiry; and whether His Majesty's Government, in view of the successive delays of the Congo Government in effecting reforms, will consider the advisability of again sounding the Powers responsible for the creation of the Congo State with the object of bringing about a Conference of those Powers to consider the principles and practices applied on the Congo, which are responsible for the atrocities existing in that territory.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I have not yet received the Report on his journey into the interior which I understand Mr. Whiteside is going to submit. It would not be advisable to make the suggested communication to the Powers until we see what effect is produced by the decrees, which it is hoped will shortly be issued, for the reform of the administration of the Congo State. We have already expressed our opinion of the urgency of not delaying these reforms.

Papers on the Congo.

MR. BENNETT: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when it is intended to lay Papers concerning the administration of the Congo State; and whether such Papers will include such portions of the evidence laid before the Congo Commission of Inquiry which may be in the hands of His Majesty's Government, the whole of which evidence has been suppressed by the Congo Government.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The laying of the Papers promised earlier in the session was deferred in the expectation that the Report of the Reforms Commission, or the announcement of the reforms consequent upon it, would be made public in April, in which case they would have been included in the Papers. As this expectation has not been realised, the Papers will now be laid as soon as possible. The evidence which is in the possession of His Majesty's Government has already appeared in the Press, and it does not seem necessary to print it again for a Parliamentary Paper.

Case of Lieutenant Massard.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government has been informed that the trial of the Rev. Edgar Stannard, in the Congo State, has been postponed until June 15th; that the trial of Lieutenant Massard, of the Force Publique of that State, is not yet concluded, although that Congo official was arrested, by instructions of the Congo Commission of Inquiry, as far back as November, 1904; and what guarantees are possessed by His Majesty's Government that the proceedings against the Rev. Edgar Stannard will not be similarly delayed.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) Consul Nightingale has reported the postponement of the trial. I understand that Lieutenant Massard appealed against the sentence of the Court of First Instance. If the Delegation of that Court at Coquilhatville pronounces a judgment adverse to Mr. Stannard, and if Mr. Stannard appeals against that judgment, His Majesty's Government will take all possible steps to insure that the proceedings before the Court of Appeal shall not be unduly delayed.

Case of the Rev. Edgar Stannard.

MR. TREVELYAN: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government will cable to Vice-Consul Armstrong, who is understood to be watching the proceedings in the case of the Rev. Edgar Stannard, at Coquilhatville, in the Congo State, for information as to the facilities, or the lack of them, which prevail in the matter of securing the attendance of native witnesses for the defence at the forthcoming trial of that British subject.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) A telegram has been sent to Mr. Armstrong in the sense suggested by the hon. Member.

Hindustan-Tibet Road.

SIR HENRY COTTON (Nottingham, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government has decided to complete the Hindustan-Tibet road, in order to establish an unbroken link between Simla and Gartok, the new trade mart in Western Tibet; and, if so, what is the estimated cost of this project.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have no official information as to any scheme for completing the Hindustan-Tibet road to Gartok. The Government of India have been asked to report on the subject with reference to the statements that have appeared in the Press.

Gyangtse Trade Mart.

SIR HENRY COTTON: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government has decided to construct a road from British territory in the Tulpigoree district, through the independent state of Bhutan, for a distance of eighty miles into Tibet, in order to establish a new line of communication from Bengal to the new trade mart at Gyangtse in Central Tibet; and, if so, what is the estimated cost of this project.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The survey of a road from the Julpaguri district in Bengal through Bhutan to Chumbi was carried out in 1905, by agreement with the Bhutan authorities. But no proposal to construct the road has been received from the Government of India, nor have any estimates been furnished of the cost.

British Indian Trade with Tibet.

SIR HENRY COTTON: To ask the Secretary of State for India what is the value of the export and of the import trade between British India and Tibet during the last year for which official figures are available.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The figures for the twelve months ending 31st March 1905 are, exports to Tibet, £79,539; imports from Tibet, £92,421; total £171,960. For the nine months ending 31st December 1905, the exports were £95,576, and the imports £111,578, or a total of £207,154.

Irish Ordnance Survey.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that the wages of the chainmen employed in the Irish field sections is less than the wages paid to men engaged in similar work by the headquarters division at Southampton; and whether he will consider the advisability of allowing those chainmen working field sections for a period of five years to be rated as skilled labourers.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The wages paid to chainmen employed in field sections are the same in Ireland as in England. There are no men at Southampton engaged in similar work. The duties of a chainman in the field cannot properly be classed as skilled labour. They are in no way analogous to the various duties performed at Southampton by labourers who are rated as "skilled."

Pensions in the Survey Department.

MR. FIELD: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that in the seventy pensionable positions in the Survey Department, including headquarters and division offices, when vacancies occur the positions are, in the majority of cases, filled by ex-Royal Engineers who are already in receipt of a pension; whether, with a view to promoting efficiency, steps will be taken to discontinue the system of superseding temporary civil assistants with years of service and experience, and also labourers who have given satisfaction; and whether he will consider the necessity of providing a pension for temporary civil servants and labourers when discharged on reduction or on reaching the age limit after ten years continuous service.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) Vacancies in the pensionable posts are filled by the selection in each case of the man best suited to the particular post, irrespective of whether he has served in the Army or not. At present these posts are held by thirty-five assistants who have had no Army service, twenty-nine who have had Army service, and eight who are still serving in the Royal Engineers. Owing to the reduction in the amount of work to be done, it is necessary to give notice of discharge to some of the employees, and, in the interests of efficiency, those who can best be spared are selected for discharge. The question of the superannuation of the temporary civil assistants is at present under the consideration of the Treasury.

Post Office Telegraph Factories.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state what was the total cost including overtime of the clerical staff and labour employed in the Post Office Telegraph Factories during 1903–4, 1904–5, 1905–6, 1906–7 (estimated); and whether he will favourably consider proposals for establishing a Government factory in Dublin for the repair and manufacture of Post Office stores so as to ensure greater economy and efficiency, and provide a fair share of employment in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The figures are as follows:—

Financial year	1903–4	-	£92,175
,, ,,	1904–5	-	£90,436
,, ,,	1905–6	-	£98,531
,, ,,	1906–7	-	£89,108 (Estimated).

There are already local workships in Dublin and other towns in Ireland for the repair of apparatus, and I do not think that the establishment of a Government factory in Dublin would conduce to greater economy and efficiency.

Purchase of Post Office Engineeing Stores in Ireland.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state what amount is spent annually on the purchase of Post Office engineering stores, and how much of this amount is spent in Ireland; whether he can state the value of such stores used up in Great Britain and Ireland, respectively; whether he contemplates giving contractors the same opportunities of tendering for the delivery of the Irish supplies in Dublin as are now afforded in the case of uniform, stationery, baskets, and bags required for the Post Office service in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The amount spent last year on the purchase of Post Office engineering stores was £953,000, of which about £500 was spent in Ireland. The value of engineering stores used in Great Britain and Ireland was £952,000 and £11,500 respectively. Any makers of such stores in Ireland who desire to be invited to tender should send their names and all other necessary particulars tō the Controller of Stores, Bedford Street, W.C.

Transit of Live Stock in Ireland.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that an Irish railway company issue a note to be signed by men who desire to travel with live stock consignments by which the company is excluded from liability to the men or their representatives for loss of life or personal injury, however caused or sustained on the journey; and whether he will take measures to prevent the issue of such document in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade have received no complaints of the practice referred to by the hon. Member, but if he will be good enough to furnish further particulars I shall be happy to consider whether the Board of Trade could usefully take any steps in the matter.

Gambling in Futures.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will arrange to have furnished up to date a continuation of the Reports from His Majesty's representatives in foreign countries on legislative measures respecting gambling in option and future contracts, furnished in May 1898, Commercial, No. 5, Paper.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Arrangments will be made for bringing up to date the information contained in the Paper referred to.

Wastage in the Royal Navy

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what number of men and boys entered and left the Royal Navy (including the Royal Marines) during the year 1905, the waste not to include men struck off on account of death, permament invaliding, or imprisonment for felony or misdemeanour.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The numbers entered during 1905 were 8,667, and the wastage during the same period (excluding men struck off on account of death, permanent invaliding or imprisonment for felony or misdemeanour) was 10,454. It should, however, be added that there were special arrangements in force in 1905 in regard to discharges from the active list to the Royal Fleet Reserve, so that the wastage under that head was abnormal.

Metropolitan Police.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many men entered and were discharged from the Metropolitan Police and the county and borough police outside the Metropolis respectively during the year 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The following table shows the number of men who entered and were discharged from the Metropolitan Police Force during the year 1905:—

Total number who joined - -	1,404
Removal from all causes:—	
On pension - - - -	499
On gratuity - - - -	50
Resigned voluntarily without pension or gratuity - -	165
Dismissed - - - - -	35
Permitted to resign - - -	50
Died - - - - - -	50
	849

The excess of men joining over removals from all causes is accounted for by there being 211 vacancies at the beginning of the year and 364 net augmentation during the year. It would involve much time and labour to collect similar figures from the county and borough police forces, 187 in number, and unless there is special reason for doing so it would not be desirable to trouble them.

Mines (Hours of Labour) Return.

MR. BRUNNER (Lancashire, Leigh): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will grant a Return similar to the Mines (Hours of Labour) Return of 1890.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The hon. Member no doubt desires this information in connection with the Eight Hours Bill now before Parliament. A Departmental Committee is to be appointed to consider this subject, and it will, I think, be desirable to leave the Committee to determine the form in which these particulars should be required.

Insanitary Cottages at Bumpstead.

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the state of nine cottages in the hamlet of Bailey Hill, Birdbrook, in the rural district of Bumpstead, Essex, which are without any water supply, except a pond used by cattle, and further polluted by matter from the only convenience at the disposal of those nine dwellings; and whether, seeing that the sanitary authorities have exhausted their powers, he proposes to take any steps to coerce the owner to provide a proper supply without proceeding to close the cottages, as, although the inhabitants are in bad health, cottages are greatly needed in the locality.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware of this case, and I understand that an attempt was made some time since to deal with it under The Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, but it would seem that this was not practicable under the terms of the Act. It appears to be very desirable that a proper supply of water should be provided for these cottages, but I have no power to compel the owner to make such provision. Whether the rural district council have exhausted their powers as regard the cottages I am not at present able to say. I will communicate with them on the subject.

Scottish Crofter Commission.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): To ask the Secretary for Scotland what were the number of cases dealt with in the last financial year by the Crofter Commission for Scotland; what was the amount of rent dealt with, the amount of remission or reduction, if any, and the cost to the country of such Commission.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The information required by the hon. Member in the former part of his Question is contained in the Report by the Crofters Commission for year to 31st December 1905, Appendix BB, and the information required in the latter part of the Question is contained in the Estimates for the Civil Services, 1906–7, Class III., Section 12.

Catterline Coastguard Station.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the coastguard station at Catterline (Kincardineshire) is to be abolished in May 1907; and how long it has been in existence.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The coastguard station at Catterline will be closed on Whit Sunday, 1907. As far as can be ascertained, this coastguard station has been in existence since 1821.

Assistant Clerks in Government Departments.

MR. ASHTON (Bedfordshire, Luton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if it is contrary to any regulation of the Civil Service Commissioners for assistant clerks (abstractors) to petition for removal or to effect an exchange from one Department of the Civil Service to another, either with or without the concurrence of the heads of Departments concerned.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Civil Service Commissioners raise no objection to petitions of assistant clerks (abstractors) for removal from one Department to another. They also put no obstacle in the way of exchanges. But the consent of the authorities of both Departments concerned is necessary for any such transfer or exchange.

Non-provided Schools in the Metropolis.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can lay upon the Table of the House a Return showing the amount of expense incurred by the ratepayers of the Metropolis, under the provisions of the Education Act of 1902, in respect of the maintenance of non-provided schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have no information on the point; the financial returns of local education authorities under the Acts, of 1902–3 do not separate their expenditure as between council and voluntary schools, respectively.

Education Bill School Rents.

CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the rents and money payments that are to be paid for schools under the Education Bill will be educational endowments, and as such, in cases where the trust has existed over thirty years, are open to be taken away from the trustees and dealt with under a scheme under Part II. of the Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I cannot undertake to deal by means of Question and Answer with points of legal interpretation appearing to arise under clauses of the Bill that have not yet been discussed in Committee of the House.

Benevolent Society of St. Patrick, Lambeth.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Education how the provisions of the Education Bill, if passed, would apply in the case of such a school as that of the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick, Lambeth, where 450 children of Irish parentage are educated, clothed, and, in part, fed.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am unable to give any more definite answer to the Question than that the reply must depend upon the particular circumstances of the school, and in particular upon the provisions under which the buildings are held. These are matters which will have to be carefully considered by the trustees and the local authority under Clause 2 of the Bill, or, failing this, may be brought before the Commission under

Clause 8; and it would be therefore improper for me now to express any opinion which might be held to predetermine the case.

Furniture for Non-provided Schools.

Mr. ROBINSON (Brecknock): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will state who is liable to provide additional new furniture in cases of non-provided schools making reasonable demands for further and more complete equipment.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The point raised in the Question, if I do not misunderstand it, is one of legal interpretation of the provisions of the Act 1902, and depending in part upon the circumstances of each particular case. I have no power to express any opinion upon it, unless it were to arise as a matter of appeal between the managers and a local education authority in the case of an individual school under Section 7 (3) of the Act of 1902.

Tobacco Strip Duty.

Mr. FIELD: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will reconsider the proposed financial arrangement concerning the importation of tobacco strips, seeing that its effect will be to decrease employment in the three Kingdoms, and give more labour in America.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) It is no doubt true that the effect of the additional duty on stripped tobacco, as of other protective duties, has been to create additional employment in a particular trade, but I cannot for that reason countenance the continuance of what I regard as a mischievous economic experiment.

Irish Crown and Quit Rents.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that according to 10 George 4, c. 50, s. 108, the Irish Crown and quit rents should not be merged in British taxation, but should be applied in taking up charges or purchasing other lands for the Crown; whether he can state what amount of Irish Crown and quit rents has been applied to paying off charges upon London parks; and whether he will take measures to recover this expenditure, and consider the advisability of applying the accumulated revenue arising from Irish Crown and quit rents to the purchase of suitable waste mountain or bog areas in Ireland for the purpose of reafforestation, and to be worked as State or Crown forests.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The statutory authority quoted by the hon. Member refers only to moneys arising from the sale or exchange of Crown lands, etc., including quit, etc., rents in Ireland, and directs that these shall be applied in purchasing other lands for the Crown in the United Kingdom, or in redemption of charges or incumbrances on Crown lands. The moneys referred to, which are carried to the capital account of the Commissioners of Woods, have been applied accordingly, including £13,320 recently expended in buying land adjoining Phœnix Park. The London parks are under the management of the Commissioners of Works, whose department was separated from that of the Commissioners of Woods in 1851. The expenditure of the Commissioners of Works is voted by Parliament and is not paid out of the land revenues of the Crown, and it is not correct to say that any moneys received from the sale of Irish quit rents have been applied in paying off charges on those parks. As regards annual revenue from quit rents, the surplus is paid into the Exchequer each year and there is no accumulation thereof. The question of purchasing suitable waste areas in Ireland for reafforestation is one which must be dealt with on its merits, apart from any question connected with quit rents.

Promotion in the Irish Local Government Board.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can explain why the ordinary rule of promotion has been violated in the Local Government Board, Dublin, by promoting Mr. Sidwell over his seniors, Mr. Lee and Mr. Halligan; and whether such irregularity will be prevented in future; and whether compensation will be allotted to the senior officials who have been passed over.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The promotion complained of by the hon. Member occurred not in the Local Government Board but in the Board of

Works. Selection for promotion is made by merit, not by seniority. In the present instance, the Board of Works satisfied the Treasury that Mr. Sidwell's qualifications rendered him peculiarly well fitted for the post which he now holds.

Dublin Metropolitan Police and Royal Irish Constabulary.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many men entered and were discharged from the Dublin Metropolitan Police and Royal Irish Constabulary respectively during the year 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) During the year 1905 eighty-six men entered and sixty-four were discharged from the Dublin Metropolitan Police, and 197 men entered and 536 were discharged from the Royal Irish Constabulary.

Mrs. Adair's Mountmellick Estate.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners are prepared to sanction the sale of an evicted farm to a planter on the estate of Mrs. Adair, near Mountmellick, in view of the fact that he is a future tenant and came into occupation since 1902, and that the evicted tenant, Thomas Flanagan, remains in the locality and claims the farm.

Mr. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether steps will be taken by the Estates Commissioners to reinstate or provide a holding for Thomas Flanagan, Clonaghadoo, Queen's County, on the estate of Mrs. Adair, near Mountmellick, before sanctioning the sale of the eight holdings now before them for sale, in view of the fact that one of those is Flanagan's farm, which has been in the occupation of a planter since 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have referred Mr. Flanagan's application to one of their inspectors for inquiry, and until the inspector's report has been received and considered they are unable to state what their decision may be, either in the case of the evicted tenant or in the matter of sanctioning the existing proceedings for sale.

Desertions from Scottish Barracks.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for War, if he will state the percentage of desertions from the respective barracks in Scotland during each year since 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I am afraid that I cannot supply my hon. friend with the information he requires, for the reasons set forth in my reply to a Question put by him on this subject on May 14th.†

Wastage from the Regular Forces.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: To ask the Secretary of State for War what number of men and boys entered and left the Regular Army, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, respectively, during the year 1905, the waste in the case of the Regular Army not to include men struck off on account of death, permanent invaliding, or inprisonment for felony or misdemeanour, but to include all men passing into the Army Reserve.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) In calculating the wastage for the Regular Forces, it has not been possible to exclude men struck off for imprisonment for felony or misdemeanour, as the figures for these items are only rendered in the annual Returns. Net desertions and net numbers going to the Reserve only have been included. The figures for the year 1905 are accordingly as follows:—

	Entered.	Left.
Regular Army - -	37,539	45,844
Militia - -	33,182	34,646
Imperial Yeomanry -	4,386	5,769
Volunteers - - (inclusive of H.A.C.)	49,534	52,937

Railway Clerks and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Sir EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Prime Minister whether he would consider the claims of railway clerks to be included in the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my right hon. friend. As I have already stated, the Government are prepared to consider on their merits proposals for the inclusion in the Bill of classes of persons at present excluded, and I am aware that railway clerks may have a special claim to be included.

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† See Col. 156.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Training.

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty that the Board declines to commit itself to that portion of Lord Cawdor's new scheme of naval training which decided that there was no need for a final division into three branches of executive, marine, and engineer officers, and of the lecture delivered at the war course, Portsmouth, by Professor Ewing, Director of Naval Education, in which this decision is ignored, he will say whether the lecture was made public by permission of the Admiralty; and whether he will now take steps to publish the protests made by admirals in command of fleets, and who have recently been in command of fleets, against the new scheme of naval training.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee): In answer to the first part of the Question, the lecture was made public by permission of the Admiralty. The answer to the second part of the Question is in the negative.

Mr. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the new scheme of naval training was stated by Lord Cawdor in his statement of Admiralty policy, 30th November, 1905, to be based on the Report of a Departmental Committee appointed on 8th July, 1905, to investigate the question of specialisation and allocation of duties afloat and ashore for executive, engineer, and marine officers, and how best to provide for filling the higher scientific posts at the Admiralty and the dockyards: whether the Committee examined any executive officers, on how many days did they take evidence concerning officers, how many concerning the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors, and how many days were devoted to the examination of witnesses concerning the provision of warrant officers for engine-room duties.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I can only refer the hon. Member to the Report of the Committee recently presented to the House (Cd. 2841), in which he will find full information on all the points in question.

Mr. BELLAIRS: Is it not the case that no executive officers were examined by this Committee?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Report I have referred to will supply the answer to that question.

German Purchases of Welsh Coal.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state the quantity of Welsh steam coal exported to Germany during the year 1905, consigned to agents of the German Government for use in the Navy.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Admiralty have no information on this subject.

Territorial Army.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what instructions, if any, have been given to the Committee appointed to advise on the formation of a Territorial Army; whether the Committee have received any guidance from the Army Council as to the part the proposed new Army is expected to play in time of war; and whether the Committee are empowered to make recommendations with respect to the Regular Army.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire): No formal terms of reference have been given to this Committee, but I propose to ask their advice on a number of questions which I shall put before them. These will not include questions concerning the Regular Army.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked whether the questions would be laid before the House, and whether the Committee had received any guidance from the Army Council.

MR. HALDANE: The Army Council is represented on the Committee. General Stopford is there with the full confidence of the Army Council. I am asking the Committee specific questions, with a view to a general scheme. When I am able to produce that general scheme I shall be able to answer the questions.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked whether the reference would permit the consideration of the question of the utilisation of the Militia as an adjunct to the Regular Army.

MR. HALDANE: I have put specific questions to the Committee, and the answers will be the material for my scheme.

Yeomanry Canteens.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the recent prohibition of the sale of spirits in Yeomanry canteens during training is based upon the assumption that the Yeomanry were brought under military law by the Militia and Yeomanry Act of 1901; and whether, seeing that statute makes no change in the military *status* of the Yeomanry from what it has been since the Act of 1804, he will explain why there should be any change in the canteen regulations.

*MR. HALDANE: Under the Army Act, 1881, Section 176 (7) the Yeomanry are subject to military law when being trained or exercised. Accordingly Yeomanry canteens are liable during training to be brought under the regulations for canteens for the Regular Army. I may say that in some cases I have relaxed the regulations for the coming training only.

Southern Nigeria—Chief Nana.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received and considered a petition from Chief Nana praying that he may be allowed to return to his own country; and whether, in view of the facts of the case, his petition will be granted.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The petition has been received. Lord Elgin has, on representations made to him before its receipt, asked the Governor of Southern Nigeria to report on the question of allowing Nana to be repatriated, and is awaiting Sir W. Egerton's reply.

British Indians and Transvaal Permits.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the operation of the system of Transvaal permits, under which an educated Indian gentleman, a student of the Middle Temple, Mr. Suliman Manga, was lately refused even temporary permission to enter the Transvaal as a British subject, but was subsequently accorded permission to do so as a native of Portuguese territory in India; and whether, having regard to the effect produced in India when it becomes known that a native of Portuguese Goa is treated in a British Crown Colony with a consideration which is denied to him as a subject of the British Indian Empire, he will take steps to remove or modify the restrictions which are at present placed upon the movements of British Indian subjects in a British Crown Colony.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is at present without information upon this case, but he will make prompt inquiry.

Instruction in Hygiene in the Colonies.

*MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can supply a Return stating what provision is made for the teaching of hygiene and temperance in public elementary schools, and for training teachers in those subjects in Canada, Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, West Australia, and in Natal.

MR. CHURCHILL: Information on the points referred to by the hon. Member is given in the Special Reports on the Educational Systems of the Colonies, Volumes 4 and 5, laid before Parliament in 1901 (Cd. 416 and Cd. 417). I have asked that the hon. Member shall be supplied with these Papers from the Colonial Office, and I hope they will reach him in the course of the day.

Crown Lands in the Transvaal.

MR. RUFUS ISAACS (Reading): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the acreage of the Crown lands in the Transvaal; what portions thereof are available for State-aided land settlement, and in what parts of the Transvaal such portions are situate; and whether any, and, if so, what steps are being taken to further the policy of colonisation by British settlers upon such lands.

MR. CHURCHILL: The total area of Crown lands in the Transvaal is, I understand, a little over 30,000 square miles. There is little Crown land on the High Veld, and the majority is on the Middle or Low Veld, which is less suitable for settlement, the latter, indeed, being malarious. The progress of land settlement is shown in the last Report of the Commissioner of Lands, copies of which will be placed in the Library when they arrive from South Africa. Meanwhile, if my hon. and learned friend desires it, I can arrange for him to have access to the copy we have already received.

MR. RUFUS ISAACS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government has received any Reports from Dr. Jameson, the Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Transvaal, upon the nature and character of such lands and their suitability for the purpose of agricultural settlement; and, if not, whether he would call for such a Report.

MR. CHURCHILL: As I have stated in reply to another Question, copies of the last Report of the Commissioner of Lands will be placed in the Library. The Report will be found to contain information of the nature referred to.

Chinese Coolies—Deaths and Desertions on the Rand.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the number of deaths and desertions among the Chinese coolies on the Rand; whether he has any official information showing that last month the number of desertions reached 750 and of deaths 250; and whether he can assure the House that adequate measures are being taken to arrest this increase.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I have no official information as to the numbers for last month. The figures of convictions for desertions for February were 771 and of deaths seventy-nine, with a population of 49,955 Chinese. The number of deaths for April is given in an unofficial telegram as eighty-six, and I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of this figure. I should add that the great majority of cases of so-called desertion would be more accurately described as absences without leave.

Transvaal Land Settlements.

SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will provide copies of the Report of the Director of Land Settlements recently issued to the Legislative Council of the Transvaal.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The Colonial Government has been asked by telegraph for copies of the last Report of the Commissioner of Lands, which will be placed in the Library when received. In the meantime I shall be happy to give my hon. friend access to the copy in the possession of the Colonial Office whenever he may wish to consult it.

Jamaica Banana Trade.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state approximately what is the percentage of bananas imported from Jamaica entering English ports since the subsidy has been granted by this country for a direct line of steamers for this trade; what is the amount of the subsidy; what is the cost of transit as compared with the value of the fruit; and who benefits by the transaction.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The proportion of bananas imported from Jamaica to the total import of bananas into the United Kingdom, since the contract for a direct line to Jamaica was signed, has varied from 27 per cent. to 10½ per cent., the average having been affected by the hurricane of August, 1903. The contract provided for an annual subsidy of £40,000, of which £20,000 is paid by the Imperial Government. The cost of transit as compared with the value of the fruit can only be ascertained from Messrs. Elder Dempster. The contract was designed in the interests of the Jamaica fruit grower and the British consumer. But the importance of a direct mail service of steamers between the West Indies and this country is not to be measured merely by the value of the cargoes carried, and still less by any particular commodity included in those cargoes.

Russo-Japanese War—Claims for Losses of British Ships.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what cases of claims for compensation for capture or sinking of British ships by Russian vessels in the recent war are still awaiting settlement.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The cases under consideration are those of the "Allanton," "Ardovar," "Calchas," "Cilurnum," "Hipsang," "Ikhona," "Knight Commander," "Malacca," "Oldhamia," and "St. Kilda." The Russian Government have throughout maintained, and still maintain, that all cases of compensation in connection with the seizure or sinking of neutral vessels must be considered by a Prize Court, and they have declined to consider claims presented through the diplomatic channel. These cases are either still under consideration, or are actually *sub judice*, and I am therefore unable to make any further statement on the subject at present. I may, however, add that as regards the vessels which were sunk and were not taken in for adjudication, His Majesty's Government have from the outset reserved their right to press for compensation, irrespective of what the Prize Court's decision may be.

Congo Free State—British Missionaries on the Upper Lomako River.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government has been informed that a party of British missionaries travelling on the Upper Lomako River, in the Congo Free State, in January last, were summoned to retire instantly by the agent of the A.B.I.R. Company at Lingundo, on pain of being prosecuted for trespass; and whether His Majesty's Government will ensure that the rights of British subjects to travel in the Congo territories shall no longer be infringed.

SIR EDWARD GREY: My attention has been called to this matter, and His Majesty's Minister at Brussels will be instructed to request that a full inquiry may be made into the circumstances.

Hygiene and Temperance in Foreign Schools.

*MR. CHARLES ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can supply a Return showing what provision is made for the teaching of hygiene and temperance in the public elementary schools, and for training teachers in those subjects, in Sweden, Denmark, and the United States of America.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's representatives will be requested to supply this information.

Liquor Laws in the United States.

*MR. CHARLES ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will instruct the British Legation at Washington to furnish such a Report as to Liquor Laws Legislation in the United States as will bring up to date the information contained in previous Foreign Office Reports on that subject in 1888, 1890, and 1894. (Miscellaneous Series, Nos. 78, 154, and 324).

SIR EDWARD GREY: Instructions will be given to furnish a Report such as my hon. friend desires.

Chinese Customs.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any explanation from His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Pekin of the Chinese Imperial edict of May 9th appointing Tieh-liang Superintendent of Customs; and if he can state whether that appointment introduces any and, if any, what alteration in regard to the functions exercised by Sir Robert Hart as Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

SIR EDWARD GREY: We have received a reply from the Chinese Government, in which they maintain that the recent appointment of an Administrator General is a matter appertaining to the internal government of China, and that they are within their rights in giving him control over the Customs service. They disclaim any intention of not adhering to the Loan Agreements of 1896 and 1898, which stipulate that during their currency the administration of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs is to remain as at present constituted.

MR. H. H. MARKS: May I ask whether by reason of this Edict 1,500 Europeans employed in the Chinese Customs Service recently under the control of Sir Robert Hart have now been transferred to the control of a Chinese official?

SIR EDWARD GREY: It does not appear that Sir Robert Hart's position is affected in any way.

The New Hebrides.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, seeing that the New Hebrides are being depopulated of British colonists owing to adverse trade conditions, brought about by the practical closing of the Australian market, owing to the prohibitive taxes on the importation of coffee and maize, and seeing that the French Government are able to maintain a flourishing community in these same islands by securing for French traders on open market in Noumea, and by the grant of subsidies and bounties, His Majesty's Government are taking any steps with a view to safeguarding British interests in the New Hebrides, having in view, not only their commercial potentialities, but also their strategical value as dominating the Australian trade route of the future through the Panama Canel.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Draft Convention respecting the New Hebrides recently drawn up by an Anglo-French Commission is intended to make an equitable settlement between British and French interests in those islands. His Majesty's Government are now awaiting the observations of the Australian and New Zealand Governments on this proposal. The attention of the Commonwealth Government has been more than once drawn to the effect of their tariff on British interests in the New Hebrides.

Juvenile Smokers.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the unanimous recommendation of the Physical Deterioration (1904) Committee to the effect that legislation should be introduced for the purpose of dealing with the evils of juvenile smoking; and whether he will suggest to the Prime Minister the desirableness of appointing a Select Committee to consider how best effect may be given to this recommendation.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): Bills on this subject have been introduced both in this House and in another place. If either Bill is read a second time there would be no objection on the part of the Government to its being referred to a Select Committee.

DR. MACNAMARA: Is it necessary the Bill should be read a second time before this step is taken?

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes.

Management of Lunatic Asylums.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for East Wicklow, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the secretaries and accountants of the public lunatic asylums in England, Scotland, and Wales are directly responsible to their several committees of management for the due performance of their duties, or to the resident medical superintendent; and if he alone is responsible to the committee and exercises complete control over those officers under his committee.

*MR. GLADSTONE: There are no secretaries or accountants in public asylums in England and Wales. The officers who deal with the supply and distribution of stores, the keeping of certain books and documents, and of the accounts of receipt and expenditure, are (1) the clerk and steward, the two offices being almost invariably held by the same person; and (2) an outside independent auditor. The former being resident is usually subordinate and immediately responsible to the medical superintendent, who has paramount authority in the asylum subject to the supreme control of the committee of management, statutorily called the visiting committee; the latter is responsible, and reports to the visiting committee alone. The clerk of the asylum is entrusted by statute with the keeping of accounts, books, and documents, in respect of which he is therefore directly responsible to the visiting committee. As regards Scotland, clerks and treasurers of district lunacy boards are naturally solely responsible to those boards.

Pentonville Prison.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the increased number of receptions at Pentonville Prison has resulted in the overcrowding of that prison, and the removal therefrom of prisoners to country prisons necessitating the absence of many officers from Pentonville Prison.

*MR. GLADSTONE: There has been a great increase in the number of receptions, but overcrowding has been prevented by the removal of prisoners to country prisons. The staff provided for the prison allows a reasonable margin of officers for escort duty.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of prisoners received at Pentonville Prison for the years ending March 31st, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906; and whether there has been any increase of the staff of Pentonville Prison.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The number of receptions has increased steadily from 12,314 in the year ending March 31st, 1901, to 18,746 in the year ending March 31st last, but this increase has been met by removals to country prisons; and the increase in the population of the prison has been very slight. The daily average population in the year ending March 31st, 1901, was 1,059, and in the year ending March 31st last was 1,087, an increase of only twenty-eight prisoners. No increase of staff has been required.

Prison Warders' Duties.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state whether the separation of the star class, of the second division, and of juvenile adults from other prisoners throws heavier work upon the prison officers.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The improved classification of prisoners no doubt entails greater care and exactitude in the work of prison administration; but there is nothing in it that can in any way affect the hours of duty of prison warders.

Threatened Invasion of Russian Jews.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any official information showing that arrangements are now being made by emigration agents at Libau for the shipment to England during the coming summer of 80,000 Russian Jews and others in a manner and under conditions designed to evade the Aliens Act, and that steamers of the Lassman Line have been chartered to run between Libau and the English ports for this purpose; and, if not, whether he will cause inquiries to be made by His Majesty's Consul at Libau on the subject, with a view of informing Parliament.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have in my possession a Report from the British Consul at Libau to the effect that emigration from the Baltic Provinces promises this year to be on a large scale, and I understand that shipping companies are making arrangements accordingly. A large proportion, no doubt, of the passengers will be proceeding to destinations beyond the United Kingdom. The total numbers can at present be but a matter for speculation; and I do not clearly gather what the arrangements for evading the Aliens Act which the hon. Member has in mind can be. I will take care that the matter is closely watched so that any evasion will not escape observation.

Case of Madame D'Angely.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the fact that Mr. Denman acquitted Madame D'Angely and Sub-Divisional Inspector Mackay stated in evidence that he had made every possible inquiry, with the result that he found Monsieur and Madame D'Angely bore high characters for respectability, he will direct that an apology be now tendered to Madame D'Angely for the treatment to which she has been subjected; or whether it is proposed, in spite of the above facts, that the charges made by the police are to be repeated before the Commission.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am not in a position to admit the accuracy of the statements contained in the Question. The matter is one which I must leave to be dealt with by the Royal Commission about to be appointed.

MR. ASHLEY: Did not the magistrate acquit Madame D'Angely, and did not the inspector state that she was a lady of the greatest respectability?

*MR. GLADSTONE: All these facts will arise before the Royal Commission appointed to examine into the case.

MR. ASHLEY: Is this lady to wait months for an apology?

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Is the responsibility of offering an apology to this lady to be diverted from the Home Office to the Royal Commission?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I take full responsibility for the whole of my actions.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Will the Home Secretary take care to have inserted in the Bill conferring powers on this Commission provisions empowering and requiring them to make a preliminary Report on this and the other cases?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That is a matter for the Commission to decide. ["No, no."] I may say that if the noble Lord likes to raise the point when the Bill to appoint the Royal Commission is brought in he can do so.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): May I ask, is there any reason why the police should be excused from the common obligation which rests on all people who blunder?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That is a question for the Commission. That is a matter which concerns many people, many inquiries, and many Reports, and the whole of the circumstances will be under the review of the Royal Commission. At present I am unable to make any statement on the subject.

MR. SLOAN: Is it a question for the Commission whether an apology is due to this lady or not?

*MR. GLADSTONE: When the Commission reports the hon. Member will see.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: Are the three police constables who are implicated in this case still in the service?

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir.

LORD R. CECIL: And still on duty in Regent Street?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am unable absolutely to say that, but I assume they are.

Cumulative Sentences.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a convict named George Gray is now undergoing the eighteenth year of imprisonment, having been found guilty on an indictment containing four counts and having been sentenced by the late Mr. Justice Stephen to a total of twenty-nine years penal servitude, the several sentences running consecutively, not concurrently, and being accordingly in their cumulative effect more severe than a life sentence; is there any, and, if so, what legal limit to the number of years to which a convict may be thus sentenced when there are a number of counts; and whether, having regard to the number of years this man has been imprisoned, he will recommend a remission of the remainder of the sentence and say whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation for the purpose of defining and limiting the power of inflicting cumulative or consecutive sentences.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The cumulative sentences passed upon this convict amount to twenty-nine years: but this is in no way more severe than the sentence of penal servitude for life which has sometimes been imposed in similar cases. As in the case of life sentences, the question of release will be considered when he has served twenty years: but I can hold out no hope of earlier release. The case is exceptional both as regards the gravity of the crimes and the nature of the sentence, and I do not think that there is anything connected with it which suggests the need for any alteration in the law.

The Shipwreck of the "Courier."

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the shipwreck of the "Courier" off Guernsey on April 30th, which resulted in the loss of several lives; whether he proposes to hold a public inquiry into the circumstances attending the disaster; whether the navigation laws in the Channel Islands differ from those administered by the Board of Trade; and, if so, whether he will take steps to secure that they shall be amended so as to accord with those obtaining in the United Kingdom.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): My attention has been called to the shipwreck of the "Courier," and I have communicated on the subject with the Home Office who have jurisdiction in such a matter, and I am informed that they have made representations to the Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey as to the desirability of strict inquiry being held. The inquiry incidental to the inquest is proceeding in the island before the Royal Court. The laws relating to navigation in the Channel Islands differ in some respects from the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, and if on the conclusion of the present inquiries in Guernsey it appears that any amendment is necessary the matter shall receive consideration.

Royal Commission on Coast Erosion.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Royal Commission to be appointed shortly to inquire into the defence of the coast from sea erosion will examine witnesses who have a thorough knowledge of the subject in reference to the Rivers Shannon and Fergus.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have no reason to doubt that the Royal Commission will take all the evidence necessary to enable them to report on the question referred to them.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): Will an Irish Member be appointed on this Commission?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Certainly.

Vaccination.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the inquest held on May 14th in the Tooting Vestry Hall on the body of Blanche Mabel Reed, killed by vaccination, and to the statement of Dr. Samuel Edmund Bligh, of High Street, Tooting, that the vaccination was abnormal, and now and then you get a case, and that the lymph he used was supplied from the National Vaccine Establishment; and if, considering the frequency of such cases leading to serious illness or death, he will stop the issue of matter from the National Vaccine Establishment until some harmless mixture has been discovered.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have seen a newspaper report of the inquest and have caused some inquiry to be made as to the matter. I do not understand that there was any evidence to show that the death was caused by vaccination. The *post mortem* examination proved that the child died from broncho-pneumonia. I also understand that Dr. Bligh, in the statements referred to in the Question, meant that he regarded the case as abnormal in so far as there was delay in the healing of the arm, and that now and then a case arises where there is delay of this kind owing to accidental causes. I am not aware that it is the fact that cases of serious illness or death frequently result from vaccination from the lymph supplied from the National Vaccine Establishment, and I could not take any such action as that suggested.

School Funds.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state approximately the balances held by the treasurers of the denominational schools of England and Wales, or the Diocesan Schools Societies on their behalf, when the schools were transferred to the educational authorities under the Act of 1902; and whether these balances were not all derived from public funds.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I have no information as to the amount of the balances in question. They would consist of balance of income from all sources, including fees, if any, income from endowment, if any, and voluntary subscriptions, as well as Parliamentary grants.

Married Teachers.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what would be the effect of Clause 34 of the Education Bill in districts in which the local education authority has passed a resolution forbidding the employment of married teachers; and whether the undertaking contemplated by the clause will operate as an undertaking by the student not to marry during a period of seven years after his training is completed.

MR. BIRRELL: It is impossible to discuss satisfactorily the details of the Bill in a reply to a Question. There will be an opportunity for discussing the point in the Committee stage of the Bill.

Banqueting House, Whitehall.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether his attention has been called to the state of the ceiling, painted by Rubens, in the Banqueting House, Whitehall; and whether he can see his way to have it cleaned.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): I have received very satisfactory reports from experts as to the general condition of the painted ceiling; but it undoubtedly wants cleaning and a renewal of the varnish, which I hope to be able to do at no distant date, though it may not be this year.

The Mall Improvement.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works when it is proposed to demolish Nos. 53, 54, and 55, Charing Cross, and Nos. 15 and 17, Spring Gardens, in order to complete the opening of the Mall to Charing Cross.

MR. HARCOURT: Nos. 53 and 54 Charing Cross have already been demolished. The remaining houses mentioned in the hon. Member's Question are not the property of His Majesty's Government, and we do not, therefore, propose to demolish them.

Abstractors' Pensions.

MR. SNOWDEN (Blackburn): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if members of the senior abstractor grade, who have served as writers or copyists for eighteen years or more before August, 1889, are allowed to count their whole service for pension, and that the abstractors of seventeen years service before that date, and appointed under precisely similar conditions, are allowed to count only eight and a half years; and, if so, whether he will see that the regulations governing abstractors' pensions are amended so as to adjust this difference of treatment of members of the same class of His Majesty's Civil Service.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): My predecessor answered a similar Question on February 24th, 1904.† I cannot do better than quote his words. The right hon. Gentleman said, "The rule which has been in force for the last fifteen years is that copyists or writers placed on the permanent establishment are allowed to count one-half of their previous service for pension. It is true that, under a special concession made many years ago, writers employed before August 19th, 1871, and afterwards, without interruption of service, transferred to the establishment, are allowed to reckon their whole service for pension; but I see no sufficient ground for extending this concession to other cases than those which it was intended to meet."

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxx., 837.

Poor Law Administration in Scotland.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether it is intended to introduce any legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Poor Law Medical Relief and the Management of Poor Houses in Scotland.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The question is under consideration, but legislation does not seem possible at present.

Scottish Educational Grants.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the residue grant, allotted in almost all cases to the promotion of technical education, is steadily diminishing, with results detrimental to the spread of such education; and, if so, whether steps can be taken to put the contribution made for this purpose from the Imperial funds on a more stable basis.

MR SINCLAIR: The residue grant under Section 2 (iii) of the Act of 1890 has diminished as stated by the hon. Member. On the other hand, the equivalent grant under Section 2 (5) of the Act of 1892 has been steadily increasing, and it is in the power of the local authority, with the sanction of the Secretary for Scotland, to apply part of this sum, as to a purpose of public utility, in making good the deficiency in the contribution towards technical education from the residue grant. This is, in point of fact, done by several local authorities.

Relief of Irish Taxation.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the amount of the accumulated balance of local taxation under Section 58 of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898; and whether it is proposed to use this balance for the relief of baronies paying high charges for railway guarantees by paying all the charges over sixpence in the £.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): The accumulated balance, now in an interest-bearing deposit account in the Bank of Ireland, amounts to £75,320. I may remind the hon. Member that the Local Taxation Account already provides relief to local areas in respect of railway and harbour charges. Under Sub-section 4 of the section quoted in the Question, one-half of the excess of such charges over sixpence in the £ of the rateable value is paid out of the Local Taxation Account. It is not proposed to apply the accumulated balance in further relief of these charges as suggested.

Judicial Funds in Ireland.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the total amount of securities held by the Supreme Court of Judicature in Ireland in respect of funds of suitors, etc.; and what is the amount of money invested in Irish securities.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouth, N.): The total amount of securities so held, exclusive of life annuities, securities in foreign currencies and boxes of plate and valuables, was on May 14th, 1906, £5,471,456 2s. 8d. The hon. Member will find the information asked for the second part of his Question in the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Account which has been presented to this House (No. 47 of 1906).

Irish Estates Commissioners' Procedure.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what is the practice of the Estates Commissioners when an estate comes before them, mainly agricultural or pastoral, but comprising a town or village inadequately provided with land, and also untenanted land adjacent thereto; and whether the Estates Commissioners can and will prevent the sale of such an estate except in its entirety, omitting demesne.

MR. CHERRY (for Mr. BRYCE): The Estates Commissioners inform me that their practice, in such cases as are referred to, is to take into consideration the wants and circumstances of the occupiers of town or village holdings, and to deal with the properties on which town or village holdings are situate, having regard to the considerations set forth in the Regulations of 13th February last.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland do the Estates Commissioners, before sanctioning sales of estates or of holdings subject to Board of Works charges, ascertain whether those are to be discharged out of the purchase money; and, if not, whether the purchasers have been informed that the charges will continue in addition to the annuities; and will a misapprehension on this point at the time of signing the agreement entitle the Commissioners to revise the price within the zones or without.

MR. CHERRY: I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that loans made by the Board of Works on the security of the vendor's interest in the lands are redeemed out of the purchase money. A Board of Works' charge on the tenant's interest only remains a charge on the lands, and the purchaser continues liable for the periodic payment in respect thereof. Maintenance rates which are struck at stated periods continue to affect the holding after purchase. If the Commissioners have reason to believe that the purchaser is under any misapprehension as to his future liability to such charges, inquiries are made. If the Commissioners are satisfied that either party has entered into an agreement under a mistake, they can refuse to act on the agreement.

The Royal Canal.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why the Board of Control of the Royal Canal have not since 1895 insisted upon the works of restoration and repair then reported by the Board of Trade inspector to be necessary; will the shallowness of the water render traffic on the canal impossible while the repairs are being executed; if so, has any guarantee been obtained from the Midland Railway Company limiting that time; has that company been required to make any arrangement with traders and boatmen in respect of loss; and has any inspection been made as to whether the waste of water occasioned by the neglect and by the repairs will so lower the level of Lough Owel as to endanger the water supply of Mullingar.

MR. CHERRY: I beg to refer the hon. and learned Member to the reply which I gave to his Question on this subject on Tuesday.† Certain legal matters of some difficulty are under consideration, and I would ask that Questions on the subject may be deferred for the present.

MR. GINNELL: May I ask how long, in view of the urgency of the matter and the danger to health?

MR. CHERRY: A few days—say next Tuesday.

Lord Belmore's Tyrone Estate.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Estates Commissioners have accepted the proposals of a minority of tenants on Lord Belmore's county Tyrone property to buy at twenty-six and a quarter years purchase, and declared as an estate a moiety of the property consisting of portions of some ten townlands and plots of turbary on these and other adjoining townlands despite the protests of the majority of tenants on the property; whether he is aware that at present the Estates Commissioners are collecting half-yearly interest from the few isolated tenants who have accepted the price already stated and signed agreements therefor; and whether, in view of the effect of these prices upon the tenants desirous of purchasing on reasonable terms, and to preserve freedom of contract and to prevent the turbary being unfairly allotted or disposed of to outsiders to the injury of agricultural and town tenants who have a just claim to the turbary, the Estates Commissioners are prepared to use their good offices to bring about the sale at a fair price of the entire estate either directly to the tenants or through the Commissioners themselves accompanied by equitable distribution of turbary.

MR. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners inform me that two originating applications in respect of the sale of the Belmore estate were lodged with them on January 3rd, 1905, and April 19th,

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† See col. 347.

1906, respectively, and each of these applications contains a statement that the owner will provide plots of turbary for the purchasing tenants. The applications have not yet come before the Commissioners for consideration, nor have they yet declared any of the lands to be an "estate." Interest in lieu of rent is, pursuant to Section 35 of the Act of 1896, collected in the case of all purchase agreements lodged with the Land Commission, but such collection of interest is independent of any orders the Commissioners may subsequently make on the question of declaring the lands to be an "estate." The Commissioners are not aware of the terms on which the owner is negotiating the sale of this estate, and have not been asked by the parties to intervene with a view of settling any difference between them. The case will come before the Commissioners at an early date for the purpose of considering the question of declaring the property to be an estate.

South Cork Railways and Industries.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received resolutions recently passed at meetings in South Cork in favour of local railway extension, and dealing with the fishing industry in Glandore Union Hall and other southern districts; whether his attention has been called to the practically undeveloped resources of the Benduff slate quarry for want of railway connection; and whether, seeing that Rosscarbery is the most important town in the South of Ireland without such connection, he will make inquiries as to how far the undeveloped resources of the district, as regards fish and minerals, would be promoted by railway extension from Clonakilty to Rosscarbery and thence to Glandore.

MR. CHERRY: I have received the resolutions referred to. I am informed that Glandore is a good fishing harbour, but Rosscarbery is not so good; and if Glandore Harbour were to be brought into connection with the Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway the question would arise whether connection should not be made with the main line at or near Skibbereen rather than with the light railway at Clonakilty. As regards the slate quarrying industry in the Rosscarbery district, it is understood by the Department of Agriculture that there is at present a depression in the slate quarrying trade throughout the United Kingdom, partly due, it is supposed, to the condition of the building trade; and it may be doubted whether the proposed railway extension would place these quarries in a position to compete successively with other slate producing areas. The subject of railway extension will be duly considered should there be a prospect of obtaining funds for the purpose.

Maryborough Assault Case.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the assault case of Michael Rafter *versus* Cathirn Brooks, heard at the Maryborough Petty Sessions on the 1st instant, Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald, R.M., adjudicated, although objected to by the solicitor for defendant on the ground that he expressed opinions strongly against his client previously to the case coming before the Court; and whether in view of the influence exercised by Mr. Fitzgerald upon other members of the bench to secure a conviction, he will say what course he proposes taking under the circumstances.

MR. CHERRY: The action of magistrates in their judicial capacity is entirely outside the control of the executive Government. I may, however, state that I have thought it right to refer the Question to Mr. Fitzgerald for any observations which he might think fit to offer, and that gentleman informs me that there is absolutely no foundation for the suggestion that he had expressed opinions against the defendant in the case referred to before the case came into Court.

Case of Mrs. Brooks.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the Maryborough Petty Sessions, held on the 1st instant, Mrs. Brooks, wife of an evicted tenant on the M'Neale estate at Clonkeen, was fined 10s. and costs for an alleged assault, or in default seven days imprisonment with hard labour, and after termination of the above was ordered to find bail for good behaviour herself in £20, and two sureties in £10 each, otherwise to remain in prison for a further period of six months; and whether, seeing that Mrs. Brooks is a woman of sixty-five years of age, in delicate health, with a family of ten children, and being unable to pay the fine or obtain bail has gone to prison, he will say what steps he proposes taking in this case in view of the character of the evidence for the prosecution.

Mr. CHERRY: I am informed by the police authorities that the facts are substantially as stated in the Question, save that Mrs. Brooks is not as old as she is represented to be, and is, I am happy to say, in fairly good health. She refused to pay the fine and was conveyed to prison, but after spending two days in prison she telegraphed to her friends to pay the fine and procure the necessary sureties. This was done, and Mrs. Brooks was thereupon liberated.

Ballyhindon Estate, Fermoy.

Mr. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether agreements to purchase their holdings have been received by the Estate Commissioners from three judicial tenants on the Ballyhindon estate of the Hon. Mrs. A. Pennington, Fermoy, county Cork, and if the terms agreed upon amount to twenty-two years purchase of first-term rents, which rents average 20 per cent. under the Poor Law valuation; whether he is aware that there are two other future tenants on this estate, who rents average 20 per cent. above the valuation, who have also offered to buy their holdings at twenty-two years purchase of judicial rents or rents to be fixed by arbitration, or upon such terms as the Estates Commissioners may fix, and that this offer has been refused and these tenants warned that if they will not buy on the terms of twenty-two years purchase of rents 20 per cent. over the valuation the landlord will demand later on twenty-four years purchase of these same rents; and what action will the Estates Commissioners take in this matter.

Mr. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no agreements for purchase in this case have been lodged with them and no proceedings for the sale of the estate are pending before them. I would remind the hon. Member that under the regulations of February last the Commissioners have power to intervene as conciliators in such a case as the Question describes. Their aid, however, does not appear to have been invoked by either of the parties.

Armagh Direct Labour Schemes.

Mr. McKILLOP (Armagh, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on two occasions during the past two years the schemes of direct labour adopted by the Armagh County Council fell through; that, in consequence, proposals had to be brought before the Crosmaglen and other district councils in the county for consideration with the sanction of the county surveyor, and that these proposals were afterward rejected by the Armagh County Council at their meeting held on March 14th last; and whether, in view of the breakdown of the direct labour scheme in Armagh and the additional cost to the ratepayers which is entailed whilst in operation, steps will be taken by the Local Government Board to give effect to the wishes of the various district councils of the county who are all in favour of contract labour.

Mr. CHERRY: The Local Government Board are aware that on two occasions during the past two years the direct labour scheme of the county council could not be put in operation owing to informalities in procedure. The county council at their meeting on March 14th referred back for modification certain proposals of rural district councils to maintain by contract, for considerable periods, roads proposed to be included in the direct labour scheme. No formal direct labour scheme in pursuance of the Procedure of Councils Order has ever been in operation in county Armagh, but the county council have arranged to hold a special meeting for the purpose of adopting a final declaration and scheme. If the scheme should be passed it will be open to any rural district council to appeal to the Board against it, whereupon the Board will make careful inquiry into the grounds of complaint. If, however, the scheme should not be finally adopted, the roads will be maintained as usual by contract without any steps being taken by the Board in the matter.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that where direct labour is in operation the work is better done and the roads much better kept than is the case by contract?

Mr. CHERRY: I have no personal knowledge, but I have no doubt the hon. Member's statement is correct.

Mr. Corboy's Leitrin Property.

Mr. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Corboy, of Elden Lodge, Manorhamilton, county Leitrin, has sold to his tenants in Annaghcarty and Drumshunnagh, in the neighbourhood of Riverstown, county Sligo; that this sale took place in February 1905, the tenants signing the necessary legal agreements; and that instead of completing the sale Mr. Corboy sent his tenants civil bills on two occasions within the one year for one and a half years' rent, which amounts they have had to pay; and whether steps will be taken to have this sale sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners, so that these tenants may in future be saved from further proceedings and expense.

Mr. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings in respect of the sale of this estate have come before them, and that they have no information as to the matters referred to in the Question.

Waste Lands in County Sligo.

Mr. O'DOWD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the parishes of Greenagh and Riverstown, in the county of Sligo, there are 1,200 acres of waste land, most of which is let on the eleven months' system to non-residential graziers; and, if so, what steps, if any, the Estates Commissioners are prepared to take so that these wastes may be utilised for the enlargement of the many small holdings in the district.

Mr. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners are unable to identify the lands referred to in the Question; but if the name of the owner or agent of the estate is supplied to them, they will inquire into the matter.

Sligo and the Irish Seed Loan.

Mr. O'DOWD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the grant of £10,000, recently given by the Department of Agriculture in Ireland in connection with the Irish seed loan was intended to go in relief of repayment of interest on that loan; and, if so, will he say what are the several amounts allocated to the unions of Sligo, Tubbercurry, Boyle (No. 2), and Dromore West, in the county of Sligo, out of that grant.

Mr. CHERRY: The grant of the Department of Agriculture was made for the purpose of reducing the cost of seed obtained under the scheme of the Local Government Board, such cost comprising all expenses chargeable upon the unions in connection with the loans advanced for the purchase and distribution of potatoes. The amount allocated to Sligo union was £211 17s. 2d.; Tobercurry union, £33 9s. 2d.; Dromore West union, £28 6s. 10d.; and Boyle union, £175 0s. 8d. No separate allocation of the grant was made in respect of the portion of Boyle union in the county Sligo.

Mr. Beamish's Clonakilty Estate.

Mr. EDWARD BARRY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether arrangements are yet complete for the sale of the estate of Mr. William Beamish, Muckross, Clonakilty; whether he is aware that a tenant on the estate named Daniel O'Leary, of Douneen, was evicted for non-payment of one and a half year's rent (including hanging gale), the rent being double the Government valuation; and whether, seeing the farm has since remained in the hands of the landlord, and that O'Leary has returned from America to claim reinstatement, steps will be taken by the Estates Commissioners to inquire from Mr. Beamish whether he will allow O'Leary to sign as purchasing tenant for this farm, and, in case he should refuse to do so, whether the Estates Commissioners will refuse to declare the Beamish property an estate for the purpose of sale.

Mr. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received from Daniel O'Leary an application for reinstatement on the estate referred to, and have referred the application to one of their inspectors for inquiry and report.

Hungerford and Clorah Estate, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet sent an inspector to visit the Hungerford and Clorah estate near Kingwilliamstown, county Cork; are the Commissioners aware that pressure to sign a purchase agreement has been brought to bear by the landlord's agent on Denis Breen, the present occupant of two evicted farms, in the shape of a threat to issue a writ for one and a half years' arrears of rent if he does not sign before a date in the near future, with a view to exclude the two evicted tenants from the scheme of purchase; and whether the Commissioners will instruct their inspector to make the fullest inquiry into the circumstances connected with this alleged illegitimate pressure.

MR. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no information as to the pressure stated to have been brought to bear upon Denis Breen, but they will call their inspector's attention to the allegations made in the Question in order that he may inquire into the matter.

MR. FLYNN: If I send information substantiating the statements in the Question will the Commissioner take immediate action?

MR. CHERRY: I am sure the Commissioners will act as soon as possible.

Trinity College, Dublin.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of Catholics and non-Catholics, respectively, appointed to professorships, assistant or deputy professorships, public readerships, prelectorships, lectureships, assistant lectureships, provostships, vice provostships, and senior fellowships, in Trinity College, Dublin, since the passing of the Act of 1873 to abolish tests in that institution. I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what professorships in Trinity College, Dublin, are endowed from the Erasmus Smith estates; whether, as the Trinity College Tests Act of 1873 applied to these professorships, he can state if religious tests are still in effect applied in such appointments; whether the governors of the Erasmus Smith schools, in administering the trust to propagate the Protestant faith and frustrate the Popish schools, control the appointments to those professorships; whether the Erasmus Smith scholarships and exhibitions are reserved to Protestants, and preference given by statute to such scholars and exhibitioners in appointments to Erasmus Smith professorships; and what is the annual value of such professorships, and how many are held by Catholics.

MR. CHERRY: The Irish Government have no information in their possession which would enable them to give the particulars asked for in these two Questions. All matters relating to Trinity College will come before the Commission which is to be appointed, and it does not appear to be necessary to anticipate the proceedings of the Commission by seeking to obtain information upon the points raised.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman say from his own knowledge if it is not the fact there are only three Catholic Fellows?

MR. CHERRY: I am aware of it. But the hon. Member is aware that Fellows are appointed by examination.

Land Purchase Act and Mining Rights.

MR. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if a decision has yet been come to to enable the Estates Commissioners to sell or lease the mineral rights in the properties purchased under the Land Purchase Act of 1903 which are vested in them; if so, what course he intends taking as will permit the working of mines now vested in the Commissioners; and, if he has not yet come to any decision, when is he likely to do so?

MR. CHERRY: I am not yet in a position to add anything to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member's similar Question on the 4th April.† The matter is now receiving the consideration which its importance well deserves.

MR. SHEEHY: How long will the Law Officers be in dealing with this Question?

MR. CHERRY: It is not a matter before the Law Officers. It is before the Estates Commissioners.

Irish Butter Trade.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what is the value of Irish butter imported into England in the year 1905; and what is the value of Danish butter imported in the same year.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Waldon, for Sir EDWARD STRACHEY): No information is available to show the aggregate value of the butter imported into this country from Ireland. The value of the Danish butter imported in 1905 was £8,900,000.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): Why can the figures be given for Danish and not those for Irish butter?

MR. J. A. PEASE: I understand there are no returns collected as to Irish butter.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Will the hon. Gentleman inquire of the Department of Agriculture if the information can be obtained?

MR. J. A. PEASE: I will see if it can be done.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES.)

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Mr. James Stuart; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Wilkie.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

"To prohibit the sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday," presented by Mr. Perks; supported by Mr Cameron Corbett, Mr. Whittaker, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Spicer, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. White, Mr. Maclean, Mr. Shackleton, and Mr. Burt; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 19th June, and to be printed. [Bill 216.]

IRISH EDUCATION (AFFLICTED CHILDREN) BILL.

"To make better provision for the Elementary Education of Afflicted Children in Ireland," presented by Mr. Bryce; supported by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 217.]

SUPPLY [8TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £31,800 be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Houses of Parliament Buildings."

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) asked whether arrangements could be made to allow the public to utilise more largely than at present Westminster Hall. He thought it a great pity that that magnificient hall should be kept in such seclusion and that the public should not have reasonable access to it.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 511.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) said that he thought the time had come when the regulations which were in operation owing to the unfortunate occurrences of the period between 1881 and 1885 might be moderately relaxed. He had been in communication with the authorities—and they were many—who claimed control over various parts of the building, and he had come to an arrangement with them which would come into operation in a few days. The arrangement was that Westminster Hall should be open from ten till half-past two to all persons who were *bona fide* sightseers. From half-past two until eleven o'clock p.m. the Hall would be open to all persons with gallery orders, all Parliamentary agents, counsel and their clerks, and to all persons generally who were known to the police. He hoped that arrangement would be satisfactory to the public and not inconvenient to Members. He hoped the Committee would allow him to take as many sub-heads of the Votes of his Department as was possible in the day. There were a number of new buildings which he desired authority to begin; and if the authority were delayed, the most valuable building time of the year would be lost, and he would be unable to expend all the money voted, with the result that he would have at the end of the financial year to surrender a considerable sum which would only go to swell the realised surplus of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Delay would not damage the Government or give the Opposition any advantage; but it would inconvenience those towns that were waiting for new post-offices and county courts. The Vote for his own salary would be delayed to the end, so that no opportunity for subsequent criticism would be lost.

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) moved to reduce the Vote by £100 as a protest against the proposal to establish smoking in the library. Although he spoke as a non-smoker, he did not wish to pose as a particularly virtuous person. His relations to smoking were simple, like those of the man who said "honesty was the best policy, because he had tried both." He had been a smoker—and for reasons with which he need not trouble the Committee he had given it up. After all, there was something to be said for non-smokers. Non-smoking was the natural state of man. They were all born sinners, but none of them were born smokers. Smoking was generally learned by a painful process in early youth. He was sorry to say that smokers in the House had been a very aggressive race. When he first came to the House smoking was confined to the smoking-room. Then the smokers annexed in turn the ladies' dining-room downstairs and part of the dining-room upstairs; and those unfortunate Members who did not smoke almost felt that it was an act of generosity on the part of the smokers to allow them to dine there. There was, however, one place which they had always found a harbour of refuge, and that was the library of the House. [AN HON. MEMBER: And the bar.] Very much as the original Welsh were driven before the English invasion, the non-smokers had been driven to take refuge in the caves and hills, and it seemed that now they were to be smoked out from these. Where were the non-smokers to go to? There was only one place left where they could take refuge, and that was the debating Chamber itself. He appealed to the First Commissioner of Works, who, he knew, was not a cruel man. Was he going to put a respectable class who had done nothing, except that they did not smoke, into the horrible dilemma that either they must be forced to consume the smoke of their colleagues in the library or consume the speeches generated by that smoke in the House itself. They might depend upon it that the wave which had swept over the dining-rooms and the library could not be kept out of the Chamber. Once the practice was established in the library they would very soon see smoking in the Chamber. He had often heard it mooted that it would be an excellent thing to do, and that there were other Parliaments that did it. He believed it was done in America. ["No, no."] Well, in Tibet and Siam. Was the Committee willing to face the horrible contingency of smoking in the House? Let them think what it would be. From every corner of the room would emanate tobacco smoke, and very often, he feared, bad tobacco smoke. If Members were allowed to smoke whilst they were speaking, strangers in the gallery would insist on smoking too. The gentlemen of the Press would likewise insist on smoking whilst they reported Members' speeches. Even the formidable grille in front of the Ladies' Gallery, which had proved such a valuable protection to hon. Members in the House, would pour forth tobacco smoke. They had the authority of the late Prime Minister on this point. Two nights ago the right hon. Gentleman had told them that if "a man's a man for a' that," a woman's a woman for a' that. He did not quite know what it meant—but he was perfectly certain it was a philosophic manner of expressing that women who were equal to men were equal to anything. Even in the present pellucid atmosphere of the House it was difficult enough to catch the Speaker's eye. What would it be when that atmosphere was as thick as the atmosphere of a non-provided school under Clause 4? So far as he could understand, the only argument for allowing this thin end of the wedge to be inserted was that certain right hon. and hon. Members could not compose their speeches except under the influence of tobacco—and that as they went to the library to compose their speeches, a portion of it must be set apart for smoking. There were other things besides tobacco that afforded inspiration. Nothing was more curious than to remember some of the things that afforded inspiration to authors. Schiller could not compose a line unless he was eating rotten apples. One of the poets of last century who delighted England and America with his charming verse and his thrilling tales, could never write anything unless he was thoroughly intoxicated. Of course, he knew there was nobody in this House who composed his speeches under the influence of alcohol. Having listened to them he could assure the House that they were marked by great sobriety. But suppose in some future Parliament there should be hon. Gentlemen who required alcoholic inspiration, was the First Commissioner going to set aside part of the library for the consumption of alcoholic liquors, or was he going to establish a library in the bar? Why should they give facilities to hon. Gentlemen to compose speeches? Long speeches were the curse of the House. Conscious as hon. Members were of the inordinate length of one another's speeches, why should they provide a stick for their own backs by giving further facilities to hon. Gentlemen to compose still longer speeches? This was, he knew, a Vote for only £120. He was a Scotsman, with all the hereditary economy of his race, but he should be willing to vote £2,000—of the taxpayers' money—for the extension of the smoking accommodation of the House, if it was only to be confined to smoking. He did not know if, as was generally proposed, some of the rooms used by the House of Lords could be annexed; but, without wishing to speak disrepectfully of the other Chamber, he should not oppose the annexation of the whole of "another place" for smoking—provided only that when hon. Gentlemen got it they would confine themselves to those regal premises and not cast an envious eye upon the only little vineyard that remained to those Naboths who did not smoke—the library of the House. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A. be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

*MR. HARCOURT said that until he listened to the speech of the hon. Member he had no idea what a revolutionary proposal he had made. Let him give the House the history of the matter. Two years ago a private Member got up a memorial to the late Speaker for the extension of smoking to one of the libraries. That was signed by a majority of the House, and the private Member having secured the majority came to the conclusion that he had sufficient signatures. Mr. Speaker Gully, when approached, was not quite sure that he had power to give the permission, to which the private Member replied that in that case he, perhaps, had no power to forbid it. The then Speaker thereupon took up a stronger position and said he did not feel justified in granting permission without a vote of the House, and as that Parliament was nearing its end it was decided to leave the decision of the matter to the new Parliament. In that new Parliament the private Member who had got up the requisition found himself unexpectedly First Commissioner of Works, and he felt bound to try to carry out the wishes of the people whose signatures he had secured. He was met with the old difficulty of getting an expression of opinion except by the ancient method of reducing his own salary, so, setting his wits to work, he resorted to the alternative of placing a sum of £120 on the Votes. The matter would be left absolutely to the decision of the House. There would be no Government tellers. The only result of passing this vote would be that smoking would be permitted in one out of five libraries. He did not think the non-smokers could complain of having four out of five. The position of the non-smoker in the House was one of absolute power and monopoly of nearly all the accommodation. He did not say that the time might not come when the House in its charity might decide to reserve one or two rooms for non-smokers. This was not a proposal to turn the library into a smoking room. He intended that it should still continue a silent room. There would be no refreshments served, there would be no newspapers, and no change except that whilst reading or writing in that particular room Members would be allowed to smoke.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said he rose to give the Government a little support; and to remind the hon. Member for Kincardineshire that minorities after all must suffer; it was the badge of their tribe. He would venture to tell the hon. Gentleman with the greatest possible respect that he shared the intolerance that was associated with total abstainers against anything agreeable. He would only say, speaking on behalf of those who did smoke and found the present accommodation intolerably restricted, that they, for their part, wished to set the hon. Gentleman an example of toleration in which the hon. Gentleman's speech was conspicuously lacking. If it would in any way contribute to the hon. Gentleman's comfort and leisure in which he could prepare his speeches, he, for one, would offer no opposition to setting apart a room in which he could eat rotten apples as a stimulant before he addressed the House. ["Order."] He was entirely at a loss to conceive why it should be supposed to be insulting or derogatory to the hon. Gentleman's intelligence to suggest that he would need a stimulant which, on his own showing, was frequently resorted to.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said he was not going to plead for minorities, but for majorities, and that was in regard to the reading-room.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby): On a point of order, ought not the subject under discussion to be disposed of first?

THE CHAIRMAN: I am in the hands of the Committee; but I do think it would be more convenient to dispose of one subject at a time.

MR. HARWOOD said he wanted to know whether he would be able to make the proposal later that the room in question should be turned into a reading-room as well as a smoking-room.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. Gentleman will be precluded from making that suggestion afterwards.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's) said he had the honour of being First Commissioner of Works at one time, and this question was very constantly before him. He fully sympathised with the wish of the majority of the House that there should be more accommodation for smokers, and although he supported this proposal, he wanted to make a caveat that it was only a make-shift and that smokers were not satisfied with this as a final conclusion. He thought some such scheme as that suggested as a result of the Committee which sat three or four years ago should be carried out, and the Government of which he was then a member would have gone on with the proposal had it not been for the lean years in which they lived.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said while he was to some extent moved by the speech of the hon. Gentleman who proposed the reduction, he was obliged to oppose his motion. When the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down was in office a House of Commons Committee came to the conclusion that it was necessary in the interests of Members' health that there should be a very considerable extension of the accommodation of the House. Then, unfortunately, there came the South African War and the distress which followed, with the result that Members had had to continue to suffer from the lack of accommodation which years ago was admitted. They who were supposed, commonly and erroneously, to be members of the best club in the world, had only one smoking-room capable of holding forty Members. The smoking-room accommodation was inadequate, unhealthy, and altogether unsatisfactory according to the Committee on which he served as a member. There was not nearly sufficient accommodation for those who desired to smoke, or for those who desired to dine, and there was absolutely no alternative for Members except to continually sit in this chamber, which was fatal to the health of any Member. Therefore he supported the suggestion of the First Commissioner of Works that temporary requirements should be met by allowing smoking in one of the libraries, but he warned the right hon. Gentleman that he would find upon inquiry that this would not meet the case. There was pressing need for a large extension of accommodation throughout the House, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not take approval of his proposal as a sign that Members were generally satisfied with the accommodation which they merely accepted as an instalment.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) admitted that the smoking accommodation was perfectly inadequate, and that the present proposal was a totally inadequate remedy for it. He did not smoke himself, but he spent a great deal of time in the smoking-room. No doubt adequate smoking accommodation would facilitate the transaction of business in the chamber itself, and upon that ground he should be inclined to support proper accommodation for smokers. He thought that smokers as a whole were the most selfish people imaginable. But if he were a smoker he should object to this proposal, because newspapers were to be excluded from the room. This was a new Parliament, and the attendance was very much larger than ever before. If they were going to cut down library accommodation in the interests of smokers they must take into account the large attendance of Members who now frequented the library. If this attendance endured, as he hoped it would, probably they would have to make other arrangements over the entire House. There were rooms which were practically unused that ought to be annexed if this room was to be given up to smoking. The library accommodation ought not to be curtailed, and he should vote against his right hon. friend's proposal because he believed that he was moving in the wrong direction.

*Colonel LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square) said that as one who signed the memorial in the last Parliament asking for additional smoking accommodation he should support the proposal before the Committee.

*Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) called attention to the remarkable report issued by a Committee which sat for several weeks inquiring into this very subject—he alluded to the Committee of 1894. The conclusions which that Committee arrived at were of such a startling nature that when the Vote for the Houses of Parliament came before the Committee of Supply a reduction of £500 was moved and carried as a protest against the state of things which had been brought to light. The question had been asked whether it was not possible to find rooms in some other part of the building than the one referred to by the First Commissioner of Works. He thought there was plenty of other accommodation to be found. Some changes had been made since the date to which he had referred, and rooms which were formerly occupied by officials were now used by Ministers. Among the facts brought to light by the Committee were that 315 rooms in this building were then occupied by officials, and that seven officials occupied between them seventy-two bedrooms. The Speaker of the House had sixty rooms at his disposal, the Sergeant-at-Arms thirty-five (seven of them being prison rooms), the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms twenty-two, the chief clerk of the House of Commons thirty, the assistant clerk twenty-three, Black

Rod thirty-five (twelve of them bedrooms), the librarian of the House of Lords twenty-four (ten of them bedrooms), but what the librarian of the House of Lords, who was a bachelor, wanted with ten bedrooms nobody could understand. The Lord Great Chamberlain had twenty-five rooms. Such was the extraordinary state of things brought to light by the Committee. It was quite clear, therefore, that there were plenty of rooms in this building available for smoking or other purposes. The question was being put to them in a very unpleasant way, and this was placing some Members in an awkward fix. They did not wish to vote for the reduction or to evince dissatisfaction with the proposal of the First Commissioner. He believed they all had perfect confidence in the right hon. Gentleman, and they were delighted at having such a sympathetic Minister, but his proposal had placed them in an awkward position. He was going to oppose the use of this room for smoking, not because he did not think that more smoking accommodation was required, but because it was clear from the evidence that there were other rooms in this building that could be utilised, and he suggested whether it was not worth while on the part of the First Commissioner to take a little more time for consideration and, if necessary, reappoint the Committee of Inquiry to which he had referred. [Cries of "No, no."] He believed such a Committee would even now bring to light a very extraordinary state of things with regard to the number of rooms which were at present unused and which could be utilised. If the Motion was pressed to a division he should vote for it, although he was in favour of giving more smoking accommodation. There was one other point. Hon. Members must have noticed that there was no room in the building where they could invite a deputation who wished to confer with them on any subject.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby): On a point of order I desire to ask whether the hon. Member is in order in discussing the general question of accommodation.

The CHAIRMAN: I expressed the opinion whilst the hon. Member for Bolton was speaking, that it would be better to take a decision upon this question and not go into such questions as the hon. Member for Haggerston is now dealing with.

*Mr. CREMER said he only mentioned this point to show the necessity of further consideration being given to the question.

*Mr. HARCOURT thought that some hon. Members rather misunderstood the position. He had made this proposal in order that hon. Members might express their opinion on the proposal to take one room for smoking which at the present time was occupied by non-smokers. He had never suggested that what he proposed was sufficient accommodation or that it would provide for the great congestion and do away with the necessity for more accommodation. Earlier in the session the hon. Member for East Clare had requested him to approach the House of Lords upon this question, and he had done so. He was pleased to add that they had very nearly come to a conclusion which he thought would be satisfactory to the House as a whole, and which would enable him to give considerably more accommodation by various re-arrangements both for dining and smoking. This was a question simply of taking one small library as a silent room where Members were to be allowed to smoke whilst they were at work. The Government had no views upon this question at all, and they asked the Committee to come to a perfectly free and unfettered decision as to whether they should allow the map-room, smallest of the libraries, to be set apart for this purpose.

*Mr. MORTON (Sutherland) entirely objected to the taking of one of the library rooms for this purpose, but before they settled this matter they ought to know what had become of the recommendations of the Committee to which the hon. Member for Haggerston had referred.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 119; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 80.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Balcarres, Lord
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Bottomley, Horatio
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras. W
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cory, Clifford John
Cox, Harold
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Fletcher, J. S.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert Jn.
Glendinning, R. G.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Herbert, T, Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Laidlow, Robert
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lough, Thomas
M'Cullum, John M.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim. S.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sutherland, J. E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thornton, Percy M.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ward, W. Dudley (Southamptn
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, J, (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Crombie and Mr. Lamont.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armitage, R.
Ashley, W. W.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bell, Richard
Benn, W. (T'wr Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Branch, James
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Bull, Sir William James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chance, Frederick William
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grins'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel

Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duckworth, James
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, Davide C.
Essex, R. W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fenwick, Charles
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Haddock, George R.
Haldane, Rt, Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Marnham, F. J.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morpeth, Vicount
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, Wiliam
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halfax)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhmpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robinson, S.
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major. J. B.
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Starkey, John R.
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Torrance, A. M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. William Redmond and Mr. Lehmann.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. HARWOOD said that some years ago he called attention to the bad accommodation for the reading of newspapers. He was told then that as the result of some negotiations certain rooms were to be made available to Members who desired to read newspapers. They never got the rooms which were promised, and he ventured to say that the condition of the present reading-room was simply scandalous. It was not a room at all. It was nothing but a lobby where they had to choose between the devil of a fire and the deep sea of a draught. Passing through there, what did they find? They found half a dozen Members generally asleep on account of the state of the atmosphere. On the other side of the room Members were subject to terrible draughts. It was said that they might go to the other reading-room which was a sepulchral chamber downstairs; and that there was the smoking-room. But the latter room was too small. The newspaper reading-room was only 50 feet by 20 in the passage to the tea-room. He thought that the Government, for their own sakes, should make a radical improvement in the accommodation for Members. There were two things which went to make a good Member of Parliament. One was that he should be always on the premises; and the other that he should not be always in the House. Many men came into the House because they could not be anywhere else. What was wanted was that they should be at hand when a division was called. He himself was frequently driven to come in and sit on these miserable benches listening to miserable speeches, because he did not know where else to go. He did not want to undermine the superstition that the House of Commons was the best club in the world; but at any right they had a right to decent accommodation. He did not want luxury—only simple decency. Let Hon. Members make the round even of working men's clubs and they would find that there was not one but which had better accommodation in proportion to the number of its members. And these were clubs of which the members were not compelled to attend; they might drop in for only half-an-hour or so and then go away. But Members of the House of Commons were brought there in the middle of the afternoon and kept till close on midnight, and they ought to have, as an antidote, some decent accommodation. Then it was said, "What did our fathers do? When this House was built sixty years ago our fathers did not complain." No, they did not complain, because when Burke made his great speeches the Members were not present. They knew better. Now Members were compelled to hang about all the afternoon and evening. They were torn from their home and loving wives, and they did not know where to go. There was another point. Hon. Members ought to have reasonable accommodation where they could read the reports of their own speeches. He suggested that the newspaper room in the lobby should be thrown into the tea-room. He had mentioned this to one of the officials, who told him that he should come at the proper time; but they all came at the same time. The tea-room was ridiculous, and the reading-room was beneath contempt. What was wanted was a large room on the river front where they could read their newspapers comfortably with a good light, and so keep up their general information. They were told about the power of the Press; but he thought that one reason why the Press was not better than it was, was that Members of the House of Commons had not a fair opportunity of studying their productions. He put his case to his right hon. friend from a catholic point of view. The experience of the past did not now apply. Let them not talk about luxury. Let anyone go into the reading-room and ask himself whether that was fit for the accommodation of 670 Members for eleven hours of the day. He had shown friends over the House, and when they looked through the window of the reading-room they only saw hon. Members fast asleep. That was not because the newspapers were dull, but because the atmosphere was deadly, and there was no decent ventilation. He insisted that the time had come when in a new Parliament with many new Members anxious to do their duty, the officials should face this problem of providing better accommodation.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that this was a matter of serious importance. Whatever difference of opinion might exist among hon. Members as to the sensible accommodation that should be provided, all were cheered very much by the announcement of the right hon. Gentleman as to the result of the negotiations he had made with the officials of the House of Lords. He had no doubt that the further accommodation which the right hon. Gentleman had secured would do a great deal to remove the grievances they had had to complain of. Apart from minor complaints, there was another subject of vital importance. It was a fact that this House was an extremely unhealthy place. He had no doubt in his own mind that many valuable lives—Ministers', and ordinary Members'—had been shortened or lost owing to the atmosphere of the House, where they were compelled to spend so many hours of the day in session. Some years ago he raised the question especially in regard to the Committee rooms upstairs. A Committee was appointed to consider the matter, and the evidence given was of the most startling and amazing description. It was shown that the atmosphere of the Committee rooms was absolutely poisonous, and that counsel engaged, as well as hon. Members sitting on the Committee, were being continually laid up because of the poisonous atmosphere. No doubt a great improvement had been made with the expenditure of a great deal of money. But he still maintained that the system of ventilation of the House was exceedingly imperfect. He agreed with the Committee that the volume of fresh air for the use of Members which came into the House was sufficient. But he had sat on all these Committees and he had always objected to the system of ventilation which prevailed. All the air they breathed came up through the floor and underneath the benches on which they sat. He maintained that that was a bad system; and he had put to the expert witnesses whether they knew of any public building in Great Britain or in the world which was ventilated through the floor on which the Members continually walked; and all these experts had said that they knew of no modern building which was ventilated on that system. Certainly schools, hospitals, and other buildings were not ventilated in that fashion; but it was a curious fact that experts were not agreed as to what was the most scientific system of ventilation. They all agreed that the present methods were bad, and the only defence of it was that it would cost a good deal of money to alter it. During the time of the South African war that was no doubt a conclusive answer, but he was bound to say that he did not think that now the mere question of expense ought to stand in the way of more perfect ventilation. He agreed that the supply of air since the system had been started on the terrace was sufficient, but he thought that being pumped up through the floor, it was fouled by the feet of Members who came in from the street. In winter time the air came in a great deal cooler than it ought to be. It came in at a temperature of 65° and as it was introduced from the floor it played upon the feet and legs of Members. Everyone knew that it was perfectly pleasant to sit in a temperature of 65°, but if they were exposed to a draught at that temperature it extracted heat from the system and made them very cold. The consequence was that hon. Members had constantly to get up and go out in the lobby to warm themselves by a fire. The feet of Members became like lumps of ice, and he believed that in the whole world there was not such an uncomfortable system of ventilation as that which prevailed in the House of Commons. In that House they laid down sanitary principles of sanitary science which applied to the whole country, and yet they allowed a condition of things to prevail there which made hon. Members subject to those colds for which the building was celebrated. There was no doctor who would not tell them that the worst place for those who were subject to colds was the House of Commons. The First Commissioner was going to spend £2,000 upon ventilation this year. It was a large sum, and he would invite the right hon. Gentleman to seek the opinion of experts as to the best manner in which it could be expended.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD sympathised with the last two speakers but only regretted that they did not conclude with some practical suggestion. He was very much struck with the fact that for the ten minutes preceding the division on the Education Bill, fourteen Members, including himself, could not get into the House. He thought it was a disgraceful state of things that those who were carrying on the business of the country should do so in a chamber which could not acccommodate all the Members. Another point which struck him was that hon. Members who resided hundreds of miles away wanted more accommodation than hon. Members who had residences in town. They had frequently to meet constituents who come to see them on business, and in consequence of one of three gentlemen who came to see him the other day not being able to bear the atmosphere of the smoking room, he had to converse with them in a draughty corridor. If they were to conduct business in a businesslike way, they ought to have the opportunity of pursuing businesslike habits with decent accommodation. Each session twelve hon. Members became *hors de combat* and had to retire from the business of the country or died, because of the condition of things which prevailed in that chamber and its precincts. The chamber was inadequate, and had no historic associations, and it should be made possible for them to conduct their business properly, in a proper building, with suitable accommodation.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said he was glad that they had in charge of this Vote a man with the spirit of his right hon. friend, who could, he thought, make his name historic by initiating a few radical changes in the accommodation afforded to hon. Members. He agreed that the state of things was not so bad as it used to be, because he remembered one historic night when Lord Randolph Churchill moved and carried the adjournment of the House on account of the bad smells which prevailed in it. As to the ventilation of the House he had found an hon. friend of his with a newspaper upon his knees, and he was told that a newspaper was a very good thing to keep oneself warm with, protecting himself from the Arctic blasts by which the atmosphere of the House was tempered, but not entirely destroyed. On another occasion he was in the tea-room talking with a friend who had been to see a doctor, who had stated that the most unhealthy place in London was the House of Commons, and that he owed his income more to that fact than to any other circumstance. He remembered a remarkable rule which appeared to have been laid down by a remarkable man in order to preserve health in the House. Lord Tweedmouth, who was then Mr. Majoribanks, the chief Ministerial Whip, took him from the Strangers' dining-room to the Ministers' dining-room, and told him that he had better look into it, because he would there see a historic sight, it being the first recorded time that Mr. Gladstone took dinner in the precincts of the House. Everyone knew that the one place in which Mr. Gladstone could never be induced to stay between 7.30 or 8.30 and 11 o'clock was the House of Commons. He always left the House and had dinner elsewhere, and the last thing he could be induced to talk about during dinner was the affairs of the House. Mr. Gladstone was a master of the art of living soundly, mentally as well as physically, and he took it that the reason why the deceased statesman went away for a period of the evening was that he realised that anybody who stopped throughout the sitting was bound to suffer. He confessed that if he came to the House regularly and remained there during the whole of the sitting he found at the end of the week that he required a small vacation to recover his health. He would not say anything about the abolition of the dinner hour; he thought it was a change for the worse, but it had been agreed to and there was an end to the matter. But he had noticed that if a man went away only for an hour into a purer atmosphere he came back much fresher. A change ought to be made in the House. The ventilation was very bad. It was also a ridiculous thing that a gentleman who came up from the country to consult his Member upon some important matter affecting his constituency should have no place to wait in, but had to sit about in draughty passages. The right hon. Gentleman would not have to go far to see the necessity for change. He himself would be ashamed to put a junior sub-editor into the semi-underground cellar occupied by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Where was the remedy to be found? It was not that there was not enough accommodation in the building, when there were ten bedrooms for an official of the House who was a bachelor, but that it was not properly used. He did not wish to say anything disrespectful of another place, but he would say that to keep up the present establishment, reading rooms, libraries, smoke rooms, and all the other accommodation for a Chamber that rarely sat after five o'clock, and very often did not meet at all, and took long vacations, was one of the greatest follies and absurdities he had ever heard of. He hoped his right hon. friend would not be annoyed if he suggested that instead of changing a portion of the Library into what he would regard as something between a smoke-room and a tap-room, he should seek a remedy by boldly annexing a large number of the rooms at present wasted on the officials of the House of Lords.

*SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) called attention to the size of the Union Jack flown from the Victoria Tower, the size of which he said was out of all proportion to the size of the flagstaff and the building. He could not help thinking that, at all events in calm weather, a much larger flag should be flown; and that such a flag would be more in keeping with the size of the flagstaff and of the building. Another thing which he thought was required was a small hand guide to the House for the use of visitors. Many visitors came to the House and went away without having seen or known any of the beauties of the House. He thought a small book might be got out.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had no objection to the hon. Member asking a Question upon this subject, but he could not allow the hon. Member to discuss it.

*MR. HARCOURT said it might perhaps be convenient if he now dealt with some of the Questions which had been put to him. He was inclined to think with the hon. Member for Hammersmith that the flag that had been flown from the Victoria Tower lately was too small. The full-sized flag which was flown from the Victoria Tower in fair weather was one of the largest flags in the world, being 36 feet by 24, but owing to the great height of the Tower an effect of smallness was produced. It was quite right that a small and light flag should be flown when there was any great wind pressure, otherwise the pressure would be so great that the flagstaff would not bear the strain. He also agreed with the suggestion of the hon. Member as to a guide. He had never heard of it before, but he thought it was a good one, and he would suggest that the hon. Member should write it himself. Whether, after it was written, he could afford any facilities for its sale in the building was another matter. Of that he was doubtful, because nothing was allowed to be sold in the building.

*SIR WILLIAM BULL said that was the point he was coming to when he was interrupted. There was no permission now for issuing such a work.

*MR. HARCOURT said he would see what could be done in that regard, but he welcomed the idea of such a guide being published. Other Members had complained, and not unnaturally, of the state of the newspaper room. He, unfortunately, had been put in possession of a Gothic building constructed of stone and inelastic, and it was quite impossible to enlarge the accommodation. Hon. Members had quoted the Report of a Committee in which a great deal was said of rooms being uselessly given up to officials. But hon. Members forgot that that Committee was twelve years old, and that since it reported most of that accommodation had been given up. It had been said for many years that it was absolutely impossible to construct any more lockers for hon. Members. No one could find any other place in which to put them, but by a careful study of the plans of the House he had found that he could take away the police room and throw it into the corridor, and upon the walls of that new part of the corridor he would be able to put up seventy new lockers. The hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool and the hon. Member for East Mayo both took up the attitude that the ventilation of the House was very bad, and that it was one of the most unhealthy places in the world. He thought that both were drawing on their recollection of many years ago. The change that had taken place in the ventilation and comfort of the Chamber in the last year or two was very remarkable and was greatly appreciated by many Members who remembered the old state of affairs. But there was more to be done, and more was being done. In the Easter Recess he took steps by which, during a division, he was able to remove 45,000 cubic feet of bad air from the Division Lobby in one minute, and he hoped when the hot weather arrived hon. Members would appreciate the benefit of that. Of course the problem of the ventilation of the House was a very difficult one. Associated with Dr. Haldane in these inquiries was another distinguished gentleman, Dr. Gordon. The inquiries had gone on continuously, and he had ready for presentation to Parliament a most interesting bacteriological Report by Dr. Gordon on experiments he had made in the House and Reports on suggestions by experts for further improving ventilation, with plans and diagrams.

MR. DILLON asked whether the inquiry included the question of the ventilation through the floor of the Chamber.

*MR. HARCOURT said that that matter had been constantly inquired into, but all the experts said that it was the only practical system in a building constructed as this one was, and it was an admirably working system in its way. It was quite true that a certain amount of dirt fell through the mat from hon. Members' boots and almost every form of bacillus was brought in on their boots; but the amount which came through the exhaust after passing through the Chamber was extraordinarily small. Dr. Gordon and other experts said that samples of air taken during the debate as regarded carbon dioxide was remarkably pure for air taken from an inhabited room. It was said that the air coming into the House was too cool in cold weather. It was not really a question of the temperature of the air. It came in between 62 and 63 degrees. He had given instructions, however, for the temperature of the air after midnight to be raised. The vitality of hon. Members fell rapidly after midnight and very rapidly after 3 a.m., and that produced a feeling of chill, which would be overcome in future by the rise in the temperature. Of course what was wanted was a supply of air which should be large in volume but low in velocity. It was the velocity which caused chill. He was in an extremely difficult position in trying to provide the temperature which hon. Members desired, because, while one man complained that the Chamber was too cold, another asserted that it was too hot—*quot homines tot ventilationes.* Then again it was very difficult to choose varying temperatures for different parts of the House. He had endeavoured during the early spring to reduce the velocity of the air by driving it through the cotton-wool filter, and he was doing what he could in the distributing chamber underneath the floor to get more equal distribution. Most scientific people considered that the requisite quantity of air for the human being to enjoy good health was fifty cubic feet per man per minute. That was the full requirement. Taking the maximum accommodation of this chamber, including strangers' and reporters' galleries, at 900, it would be necessary to drive 45,000 cubic feet of air per minute through to meet the maximum requirements. The fans that had been put in were capable of driving at a medium speed of 47,000 cubic feet of air per minute, or, at their maximum speed, 58,000 cubic feet. The whole contents of the Chamber were 165,000 cubic feet, and the entire air could be changed in three minutes. Until these exhaust fans were put in it took ten and a half minutes to change the air under the previous system. The supply of oxygen had been tested. The oxygen in the best air should vary from about 20·8 to 21 per cent. In no single sample taken had it been possible to get less than 21 per cent. of oxygen from the air which had passed through this chamber. It was true that there was no ozone in the House, but he believed scientists had given up the idea that that was valuable. If it were wanted he could produce it very rapidly by an electrical discharge. The question had been raised as to the humidity of the air. That, he was inclined to believe, was low, but he should be glad to have the opinion of hon. Members on the subject. It could be easily remedied. He thought he could claim that what had been done and was being done was satisfactory. It had never been a question of expense; the House had never hesitated to spend money on its own comfort. There was one part of the building which was seriously deficient in good air, and that was the Strangers' Gallery. He was arranging for a supply of fresh air to be taken from the Terrace direct to the Strangers' Gallery which would, he hoped, meet that deficiency. Also as soon as it could be structurally arranged, there would be another air shaft leading to the Ladies' Gallery, which would then be properly ventilated. These changes would, he hoped, be carried out during the next recess. He wished to offer one word of warning against a demand which was certain to be made, namely, that the side windows in this chamber should be thrown open during hot weather. It was obvious that, as a rule, the more the windows of an ordinary building were thrown open the better it was for the people inside, but in this House the opening of the windows was absolutely fatal to the whole system of ventilation. The effect of opening the windows was that practically there remained a deadlock of bad air on the floor of the Chamber so long as the exhaust was sucking the air from those open windows. That was why he should ask the House to allow him to keep the windows closed during the warm weather. Even if the air from those windows got down to them, it would be heated and dust laden, and would not be so pure as if it had passed through the ordinary channel. The hon. Member for West Derby had asked about the accommodation for seeing strangers. He agreed that such accommodation was not good, but there were always two conference rooms set apart for that purpose.

*MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) wished to direct the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to a matter which, although it was not of such importance as the questions which had been discussed in the debate, was nevertheless of considerable interest to a good many hon. Members. He alluded to the extreme inconvenience caused by the insufficient number of writing tables in the Members' Smoking Room. The time was when Members found plenty of accommodation for writing letters, but a custom had now grown up of using the tables for chess and draughts, and those who went to write notes for their speeches, or to indulge in the pleasures of correspondence with their constituents found that there was no accommodation. The remedy which he would venture to suggest was one which did not call for any revolutionary procedure, or for any considerable expenditure of money. It could be accomplished by a simple expedient of re-arranging the tables in the room and giving instructions that those placed there for writing purposes should not be utilised for chess and draughts when Members desired to use them for writing purposes.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said he was an advocate of the policy of the open window. An ounce of practice was worth a pound of theory. On more than one occasion when he had urged that the windows should be opened the hon. Member for East Mayo had protested on the ground that the draught was very inconvenient to himself and other hon. Members. But his hon. friend could not have it both ways. Any scheme of ventilation which involved taking the air through a dark passage and passing it through various processes and then through the floor of the House, which was not very clean, could not be so good as fresh air from an open window. He would ask his right hon. friend before finally deciding against the open window to consult other experts, who had assured him that fresh air through an open window was better than any artificial supply.

*MR. MORTON said it was well understood that the whole difficulty in regard to the bad atmosphere in the House arose from the fact that the air was taken directly off the top of the Thames river, and the impurity arose in consequence of the sewage. He thought it would be better to take the air at a higher level. With regard to the want of accommodation in the Chamber, that question had often been discussed, and it was a matter which ought to be considered, especially in view of the fact that they had now a new House of Commons with hon. Members anxious to attend and do their duty. If they came to the House of Commons at 2.45, they ought to be able to find a seat somewhere. If in a full

House they stood at the Bar they were called to order and asked to find a seat, which they could not possibly do. He hoped that his right hon. friend in his spare moments would devote his attention to the problem of providing more accommodation in the Chamber. Then there was the question of the lighting of the Terrace. He thought hon. Members had reason to thank the First Commissioner for having improved the lighting in the streets immediately outside the House by the use of incandescent lights. He thought he might also improve the lighting of the terrace if he changed those old fashioned burners into incandescent lights, which would cost no more, except the initial cost, and would give four or five times as much light. His right hon. friend had said that hon. Members were only too glad to spend money on themselves. They might have been extravagant in the past, and he believed much of the expenditure had been wasted. He hoped his right hon. friend would not rely entirely on experts, but bring to bear on the subject his own great intelligence. Then he would be successful.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said no one who was not a faddist could complain of the ventilation of the Chamber. He hoped it would not go out that they were anxious to spend money on their own comfort. What his right hon. friend said was that they were willing to give the money required for necessary purposes. Nobody would object to the House of Commons expending the money necessary not simply for their comfort, but for their health as well as their comfort. There was one matter to which his right hon. friend ought to direct his immediate attention, namely, the accommodation in the "Aye" and the "No" Lobbies. How far had the right hon. Gentleman gone in the investigation of the matter? He had never found himself nearly asphyxiated in the House, but he had in the division lobbies. It was of the utmost importance that something should be done to provide a different arrangement in the division lobbies from that which existed at the present moment. More ventilation could be got by passing the air through the lobbies at greater velocity, by opening windows, by more fans, and such like appliances, but the real question to which his right hon. friend must direct his attention was whether some other method could not be devised. A division in the ordinary course of things occupied about twenty minutes. The divisions took a long time, because the majorities, as a rule, were large in one lobby. In the old times the Members voting were fairly evenly divided in the two lobbies, but now they were absolutely huddled together in one lobby, and they were kept there an unconscionable time until the House was cleared. The reason for that was to be found in the fact that Members did not clear out of the House as rapidly as possible. That was a matter to which the Speaker and the Chairman might direct their attention. While some Members were filing slowly out of the House others were huddled together in the lobby, and the influence on their health must be most deleterious. It was quite true that the Committee on Procedure would have their attention directed to the matter, but as a Member of that Committee he could hold out no hope whatever that anything would be done with respect to it in the course of this session. He was anxious that something should be done before the dog days in regard to the lobbies. Supposing that when the Education Bill was in Committee they had on one day ten divisions, the time occupied in walking through the lobbies would be over three hours. When in the lobbies they should not be subjected to conditions which affected their bodily health, and he hoped his right hon. friend would not allow the matter to lie in abeyance until he had a recommendation from the Committee on Procedure, but that he would be able to announce that some plan would be devised to relieve Members from the pestilential state of things from which they now suffered in passing through the lobbies.

*Mr. HARCOURT said an hon. Member had complained that players of chess and draughts occupied the writing tables in the Smoking-room. That was not a matter which came under his control, but he quite agreed that the writing tables should not be used in the way described. He hoped that hon. Members when playing chess and draughts would use some of the smaller tables. His hon. friend the Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool had spoken of the draughts from open windows. The draughts came when the wind was in a particular quarter, and blowing at a particular velocity. The hon. Member threw rather a reflection on the purity of the floor of the House. Though not pretty to look at, the floor in every part of the Chamber was cleansed every morning by a vacuum cleaner, and the matting was removed every Saturday and passed through a formalin process which absolutely sterilised it. As to the question asked by the hon. Member for Sutherland in regard to the height at which air was drawn from the Terrace into the building, he had to say that the point had been consideredwhether it would be better to take in air at a much higher level. The tendency in all great towns was for bad air to rise, and for the fresh air from the country and the river to come in at a low level. He had had bacteriological tests made as to the condition of the air at the top of the Tower and on the Terrace, and it had been found that on the Terrace the air was infinitely superior in every respect to that at the top of the Tower. The question of having a Chamber of increased size was not one for him to deal with. It was a matter of policy for the Government as a whole. He hoped personally that hon. Members would have a little patience in regard to this matter. Debates of the kind now going on were easy in the present Chamber. If they had to provide a seat for every Member returned they would require a House more than double the size of the present, and he did not like to contemplate the difficulty which an hon. Member would experience in trying to make himself heard by Members scattered about such an enormous building. There had always been a demand for a larger House at the beginning of a new Parliament. He might call it a hardy septennial. At the beginning of the 1880 Parliament a Question was put from the Gallery in order to direct the attention of Members to the state of the accommodation. Mr. Gladstone at that time discouraged the House from going in for a new building, and stated that after the first session there was generally sufficient accommodation. Of course he did not pretend for a moment that it was not possible to build a new House, or to enlarge the existing one. This House could be enlarged at great expense by taking down the side walls and adding the present division lobbies to the area. Acoustics were an indeterminate science, and what would happen in a House double the size he could not say. Whether we could ever obtain a House so perfect in its acoustics as the present was also doubtful. He would be very loth to touch a building which in many ways was perfectly suitable for its purpose. An hon. Member had suggested that the Terrace should be illuminated with incandescent lights. His own opinion was that there was some charm about the dimness of the light on the Terrace. He, however, was quite willing to take the opinion of hon. Members on the subject: and he had given instructions that three or four lamps should be fitted merely as an experiment, and in the next few weeks he would be able to to give effect to the general expression of opinion. He warned the Committee that these alterations for the comfort of hon. Members involved the expenditure of money which must receive Parliamentary authority and next February he would have to introduce a Supplementary Estimate to sanction them so as to free himself from responsibility. His hon. friend had drawn his attention to the condition of the division lobbies. He had now received from the Cabinet power to deal with the matter officially, and to spend what money was necessary in order to make experiments in that regard. He had a plan in his mind in respect to the alteration which might be made; and when the proper time came he would provide a large diagram in the Tea-room showing the alterations he proposed, and he might even deliver a lecture upon it himself.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Does it involve structural alterations of any important character?

*Mr. HARCOURT said that it might involve certain structural alterations on woodwork, as to doors, etc. He was going to submit himself as a witness to the Committee on Procedure immediately after Whitsuntide, and he believed that the Committee would go into that question and consider his suggestions. If his suggestions were approved of, they would be made in a temporary form until it could be seen whether they were approved by the House generally. He would like to point out that the great inconvenience of the present system was due largely to the great disparity of the numbers of hon. Members on the two sides. He would be extremely slow to depart from the old system under which there were occasional meetings in the division lobbies between Members from different parts of the House. The association in the lobbies with Ministers was also extremely useful to hon. Members, and nothing in his plan would interfere with the present system of passing through the lobbies. It would only make the passage through the lobbies much more rapid than at present.

Mr. POWER (Waterford, E.) drew attention to the great inconvenience which hon. Members suffered in the Tea-room between half-past five and seven o'clock. It would be a great advantage if the right hon. Gentleman would provide an additional room where Members could get their tea in comfort. Eight or ten years ago he drew the attention of the then Commissioner of Works to the wretched light in the Library; and movable electric lamps were placed on the tables, which was a great improvement. What he complained of was that some Members came down early to the Library, put a few papers on the table, and turned up a chair and then went away so that other Members were prevented from getting access to the table to carry on their correspondence. He thought that if more lamps were put in the lobby it would be a great improvement.

*Mr. CREMER said he wanted to return to the subject of the ventilation of the House. A very important Report was made by a Committee appointed to inquire into this matter three years ago. Experiments were made by that Committee, pipes were laid all along the House; air was collected from these pipes and subjected to analysis by expert chemists. That Report could be studied in the Library. He ventured to say from his experience of nearly every Legislative Chamber in Europe and in the United States, that the atmosphere of this House was about the purest in the world; and the Report of that Committee bore out that statement. If the hon. Member for East Mayo consulted that Report he would have his fears somewhat dissipated, because it had been proved that the atmosphere in this House was as pure as it was possible to get in any building of the kind. He would suggest to hon. Members who complained of the bad air that they should go down below and inspect the marvellous apparatus for securing ventilation. He was very glad to hear what the First Commissioner of Works had said as to publishing a guide for the use of strangers visiting the Houses of Parliament. He had on previous occasions brought the subject before the House some years ago, and the then First Commissioner of Works promised to consider the matter. There was already a guide sold within the precincts of the House. He held in his hand a copy of that guide book. It was a poor wee thing; and he thought that a better one should be prepared so that thousands of strangers who visited the building might be able to take away with them an illustrated and instructive memorial. A Committee was appointed twelve years ago to take into consideration the best possible means of providing for the better accommodation of Members. One of their recommendations was that strangers who had seats under the Gallery should not be compelled to leave the House when a division was called. To obviate that, it was suggested by the Committee that a railing should be placed between the House and the seats under the Gallery. That railing was erected, but from that day to this the occupants of the seats had been compelled to withdraw when a division was called. The result often was that when a division was called they had hon. Members trying to get in and gentlemen who occupied the Strangers' seats under the Gallery trying to get out. To obviate this difficulty he would suggest that the First

Commissioner, who had, he understood, the power to do it to-morrow if he liked, should allow the gentlemen who occupied the Strangers' seats under the Gallery to remain there so as to prevent the collision to which he had alluded taking place. With regard to the police about the building he urged that they should not be called upon to stand for eight or nine hours continuously. For some reason which he was not acquainted with it was more fatiguing to stand upon tiles for three or four hours than upon a wooden floor for eight or nine hours. He did not know whether this subject came within the First Commissioner's Department, but if it did he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider it and allow the policemen about the House to have an occasional rest for an hour or two. He sat upon a Committee some twelve years ago which considered the subject of enlarging or rebuilding the House of Commons, and but for an extraordinary trick or something approaching one they would have decided in favour of the enlargement of the present House of Commons or of a new building. The proposal was lost by only one vote. It was a strong Committee, and a plan was proposed for altering the chamber into a semi-circular one and increasing it in size by quite a simple method. He thought that, with the exception of the House of Representatives at Washington, this was the only square or longitudinal legislative chamber in the world; as all the others were constructed upon the semi-circular plan or horseshoe fashion. He thought the House ought to have been constructed upon that plan, and the sooner it was seen about the better.

*MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) moved to reduce the vote by £700, the item for providing a lift for the House of Lords. He wished to ask the Commissioner of Works whether under all the circumstances and in view of the history of the doings of that Assembly in the past as well as recently it was necessary to provide any better accommodation than it enjoyed at present. He thought that, considering the attitude of the House of Lords in regard to measures proposed in this House, especially in dealing with very important labour problems, and its evident determination to oppose everything that was moved by the Labour Members, it would be the duty of the Labour men to oppose any proposal for saddling the country with further expenditure upon that body. He hoped the First Commissioner of Works would not consider his Motion for reduction as hostile to the present Administration in any shape or form, but merely as being moved for the purpose of giving an immediate expression of opinion as to the conduct of the other Assembly. He was going to put this Motion to the vote in view of the way in which decisions of this House were treated by the Upper Chamber. The Aliens Bill was not in his view a Party question in any shape or form, but a proposal which had been unanimously accepted by this House and had now been rejected with scorn by the other Chamber.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot discuss the matter in this way. He can move the reduction, but he cannot criticise the action of the House of Lords upon any measure.

*MR. J. WARD said he was a new Member, and he apologised if he had transgressed the rules of order. He had no doubt that there would be many hon. Members, however, who would be able to deal with the policy of the House of Lords without getting out of order. He would content himself with moving the reduction.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That item A be reduced by £700."—(*Mr. John Ward.*)

*MR. HARCOURT said the question of the tea-room had already been dealt with, and as to the question in reference to papers and books in the library it was one for the officials of the House and not for him. He should be most happy to give hon. Members who had questioned him facilities for viewing plans of what it was proposed to do. He was not sure whether strangers ought not to be allowed to remain under the gallery during a division, so as to avoid crowding; that was a matter which might well come before the Procedure Committee, who might perhaps make a recommendation to the House on the subject. He was considering the question of affording seats for officials at the Speaker's end of the House, and he thought it possible by making alterations at the clock end of the chamber and removing the short staircase to give an extra bench for the Members who might be displaced at the Chair end. He believed that there would be no serious objection to that proposal, and the House would not object to giving up one row of seats if it was replaced two elsewhere. He had nothing to do with the policing of the House, and the force were under the Home Secretary. They had already discussed the enlargement of the House, but he would enter his *caveat* against any countenance being given to a semi-circular chamber. He quite understood the natural sense of seriousness in which the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent desired to reduce the expenditure on the House of Lords in view of the action which had taken place that day, but he did not think this was a convenient method of raising the question, nor did he think it would be very effective. There was no lift in the House of Lords at all, whereas there were three in the House of Commons. A very distinguished and active peer who suffered from an infirmity which prevented him ascending stairs, but who took a great part in public work, had to go to the lift leading to the Ladies Gallery in the House of Commons and walk to the scene of his duties. There were many other Members of the House of Peers, who did not retire from their work because they were infirm, as Members of the Lower House did, to whom a lift would be useful. Hon. Members must remember that if they had no consideration for the House of Peers there were others who had occasion to go to the House of Lords who had to be considered. He hoped, therefore, the hon. Member would not press his Amendment to a division, and that the Committee would now allow this vote to pass.

Mr. DILLON said he did not agree with the right hon. Gentleman that this Vote should be taken without a division. It was the only means the Committee had of showing its feeling upon these matters. He remembered that some years ago the Committee cut out a Vote on the Paper in respect to the other House, and that had a considerable effect upon the minds of those who sat in that House. What on earth did the House of Lords want with a lift? They had almost nothing to do and as almost religiously did it. They only sat for about one hour a week, and he could not for the life of him see the reason for putting this expense on the tax-payers. He hoped the hon. member would go to a division and give those who felt very keenly on the conduct of those who occupied one portion of the building an opportunity of expressing their views in the division lobby. If the right hon. Gentleman would give the Committee a more suitable opportunity within a short date, he would await that opportunity.

Mr. A. L. STANLEY (Cheshire, Eddisbury) said he was entirely in sympathy with those who moved and supported this Amendment, but he wished to point out that the House of Lords, besides being a legislature, was a judicial body, and that as such they earned fees which were handed over to the Exchequer. It was quite possible that if this Committee refused to concede this lift the House of Lords would cease to hand over the fees that they received as a judicial body and apply them to the purpose of constructing one, or it might be twenty, lifts. By such a transaction the Committee would not gain anything, and that being so he hoped the hon. Gentleman would withdraw his Amendment.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that if it came to a conflict between the House of Lords and the House of Commons, there was very little doubt as to who would win.

*Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he could not agree with the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner. He admired his sympathy for the feeble peer, but that was no reason why they should vote £700 for this one Gentleman's convenience when there were thousands of poor landless cottars in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. He would be a traitor to his country if he allowed this sum to be voted for the comfort of one feeble nobleman, however amiable he might be. He came to the House pledged up to the hilt to reform and economy. Where did the economy come in in this Vote? They had far better have a couple of porters to carry this poor Gentleman—say, a couple of Chinamen, who were well used to that kind of work. He would be no party to this expenditure, and he hoped there were many present pledged to economy who would vote against this extravagance.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD wished to give his views upon this extremely unseemly Amendment, and the objectionable manner in which it had been supported. He took it that if there was any reasonable ground for calling into question the conduct of those who sat in another place they had at least the right of being treated with courtesy and consideration. If there was reasonable ground for calling attention to their conduct the opportunity of doing so ought to be taken in a constitutional and regular way. Hon. Gentlemen below the gangway must have misinterpreted the meaning of the word "lift" in this Vote. It did not mean that this House was giving a support to the House of Lords, but an elevator. The intention was to spend £700 on a structural improvement in another part of the building. As had been pointed out, this House had three lifts for the accommodation of Members, while the House of Lords had none. The First Commissioner of Works had intimated that he was engaged in delicate negotiations with the representatives of the Upper Chamber, and was obtaining from them some addition to the comforts of this House. Was this the right way to bring about a good result of those negotiations? He hoped the Committee would not allow the Amendment to be withdrawn, so that hon. Members might have an opportunity of expressing their opinion upon it.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said that he wanted to explain the circumstances connected with this reduction. The House probably knew that in the House of Lords the Aliens Bill——

THE CHAIRMAN: That subject cannot be discussed; it is out of order. The question of the rejection of the Aliens Bill by the House of Lords has nothing whatever to do with this Vote.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said that in that case the only course left was to make a protest against what had happened in the Upper House, for which the Government as much as the Opposition in the House of Lords were responsible, by voting for the proposed reduction.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) hoped that the First Commissioner of Works would not listen to the plea of hon. Members below the gangway, that he would show some grit over this subject, and that he intended for once to put his back against the wall. He assured the right hon. Gentleman that he would receive the support of the Opposition.

*MR. HARCOURT said it appeared to him that hon. Gentlemen did not exactly understand the position. It was arranged to put the lift in the House of Lords because of the convenience of the arrangement to the Members and also to individuals suffering from physical disability. He appealed to hon. Members not to press the reduction, on account of the negotiations in which he was now engaged to secure further accommodation for their benefit. Everything was still in the air, and if this reduction were carried, all his plans would vanish into thin air. He therefore implored hon. Members not to make their protest —with which he fully and warmly sympathised—in any form that would hamper him in the negotiations that he was carrying on for the general convenience of the House.

MR. J. WARD said that, after consultation with his colleagues, and especially after the expression of sympathy from the right hon. Gentleman, he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment, hoping to obtain a more favourable opportunity of discussing the merits of the question.

Leave to withdraw refused.

Question put and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved the reduction of the Vote by £100, because, although he thought the Committee ought to be very grateful to the First Commissioner of Works for the exceedingly interesting particulars he had given tending to reassure them as to the cleanliness and the atmosphere of the Chamber, and as to the removal from it of bacteriological and other matter injurious to health, the right hon. Gentleman had not seen his way to include in the Vote any item for improving the accommodation in the House. The accommodation was hopelessly inadequate, the Benches for seating were most uncomfortable, and generally the House was the worst-provided Legislature in Europe, and he could speak from knowledge, having visited and carefully examined the Houses of Legislature in practically every European capital. Members of the House had none of the facilities for discharging their legislative duties enjoyed by the representatives in foreign Legislatures, such as a convenient seat and desk, with pen and ink. To secure a seat, members had to come to the House at an early and inconvenient hour of the morning. As a matter of fact, there was not seating accommodation in the House for more than two-thirds of the people's representatives. It had also been admitted that the smoking room accommodation was exceedingly inadequate, and the room was perhaps the most draughty in London. It was admitted, too, that the tea room accommodation was inadequate, and was rendered unpleasant by the fumes of the boiling tea and coffee in preparation. He had visited that evening the two rooms referred to as being excellent for the purpose of a Member interviewing anyone, and found that they were apparently fully occupied by secretaries or other people. There was no place in the House where a Member could have a few minutes' conversation with a constituent or anyone else on business except in the smoking room or the draughty corridor on a stone bench. He very much regretted to hear the First Commissioner practically tell the Committee that it was not the intention to add to the accommodation of Members, and certainly not to do anything to enlarge the accommodation in the Chamber itself. He saw by the Vote that they were asked to spend £1,800 in providing additional rooms for Ministers. He presumed they had the rooms which the late Ministers had, and he failed to see why they should not be good enough. The ventilation of the lavatories also called for some comment. It was most necessary that the lavatories should be thoroughly ventilated. He noticed that for this purpose £250 was spent last year, and there was a similar amount put down for next year. Could the First Commissioner tell them when this expenditure began, and when it was intended to cease? He did not think they were properly ventilated even now. There was also an item of £2,000 for improvements in the ventilation of the Chamber. He was told that at present the arrangements were about as perfect as they could be made, and that the experts were quite satisfied with the manner in which the air was taken from the Terrace, washed of its impurities, warmed, and sent along by means of powerful fans of great size at the rate of 45,000 cubic feet a minute. If the arrangement by which the air came through the dirty floor subjecting Members' legs to draughts, as had been so graphically described, was perfect, why should they spend another £2,000 upon it? This was not the cost of upkeep, but simply the cost of alterations and improvements. He noticed that £550 was going to be spent upon the heating of Ministers' rooms and corridors in the House of Commons in addition to the sum spent last year. The Members' tea room and reading room were in a vile condition; in fact they were only pieces of an old passage, and they were going to spend another £250 upon them in improving the ventilation. There were a number of other items, but he did not want to waste the time of the House. On page 19, £13,630 was going to be spent upon works and services connected with the engineering arrangements and the wages of the men in connection with the ventilation. That was an enormous sum, but in addition there was £7,300 for lighting and £3,300 for fuel, which would represent about 7,000 tons. If the Government were really desirous of practising that economy which was talked so much about during the election, they could not do better than give their attention to some of these items. He was very dissatisfied with the way in which this Vote had been brought forward, and he did not think that the arrangements for the comfort, convenience, and health of Members had been fully taken into consideration by the Government. They were entitled to better accommodation and better facilities for visitors, and as a protest against the refusal of the First Commissioner to listen sympathetically to the suggestions made to him, he would move the reduction of the Vote by £100. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman intended to give evidence before the Procedure Committee. If so, he hoped he would suggest that, when a division was taking place, the door at the top of the stairs should be open. There was no earthly reason, as far as he was aware, why Members should not be able to get out down the steps after the Members had gone into the lobbies.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £31,700, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Watson Rutherford.*)

*MR. HARCOURT said he had not yet been able to make all the arrangements he desired so as to get a better supply of air in the division lobbies. The sum to be spent on the engineering department would only exceed the sum spent last year by £450. The men employed in this department were very numerous. It appeared from the Estimates that there was a falling off in the salary of the resident engineer, but he wished the Committee to understand that the present resident engineer was going to be promoted, and that the new engineer would be appointed at a lower salary. The opening of the door of the Members' staircase entrance during divisions would be an admirable reform, but he did not know that it fell within his province to deal with that matter.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said it was difficult for Members to deal with the books and papers which they kept in the lockers in the passages on account of there being no shelves on which to place them. He asked whether it would not be possible to provide a small lifting shelf inside each locker. He believed this could be done at trifling cost.

MR. STANLEY WILSON inquired if there was any intention of changing the colour of the face of Big Ben. Last year Big Ben's face had a greenish appearance; now it was very white.

*MR. WEIR said there was an item of £700 for water supply. He wished to know whether the water supplied in the dining-room was of good quality. Was the water obtained from the Water Board, or was it artesian well water mixed with Thames water? The sum of £2,550 for repairing furniture seemed to him extravagant. When the late profligate Government was in office it was absolutely useless to call attention to this matter, but the sum should be more modest under a Liberal Administration. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware of the fact that it was the practice in the workshop of his department if a castor was broken off a chair not to be satisfied simply with putting on a new castor, but to break the leg off the chair and put on a new leg.

MR. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) expressed the hope that, while suitable accommodation would be provided for officials who had to attend during the debates in order that Ministers might be able to get into communication with them, nothing would be done to lessen the accommodation available for strangers in view of the enormous demand with which they were confronted for the admission of strangers. He found from a footnote that some of the men in the engineer's department were pensioners. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would tell the Committee how many out of the total number were pensioners, and whether he would consider the advisability of utilising the services of pensioners as far as possible. He thought the House should set a good example to other employers of labour by giving a preference where possible to Army and Navy pensioners.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.) said that anything which affected the House must be interesting to Irishmen. [Some OPPOSITION laughter.] Some hon. Members laughed; but it should be remembered that the House was built by an Irishman, Sir Charles Barry, whose statue was on the staircase. Again, the House was decorated by an Irishman. The most beautiful pictures in the House were painted by Daniel Maclise. He knew many of the pupils of that eminent artist. Two great panels in the Royal Gallery were painted by Daniel Maclise, one illustrating the meeting of Wellington and Blucher on the field of Waterloo, and the other representing the death of Nelson on board the "Victory" at Trafalgar. These frescoes had been engraved and sold all over the world in hundreds of thousands; but those who purchased them did not know that the original pictures in the House of Parliament were in a most dilapidated condition. and that they were fast fading away. Why should those glorious works of an artist, who was first in his generation, be neglected and allowed to perish for want of ordinary care? He knew a friend and disciple of Daniel Maclise, Mr. Henry O'Shea, of Limerick, an artist of eminence himself, who sometimes came over to London on a visit, and that gentlemen often told him that he had wept over those pictures and their neglected condition. Many years ago Mr. O'Shea asked him to draw the attention of the House to the state of those pictures, and he had never had an opportunity of doing so until now. Some of the very finest works of art in the building, which was a work of art in itself, were the product of Irish genius. He wanted to know from the First Commissioner of Works whether he would not consult the President of the Royal Academy, and Sir William Richmond, who had done such noble work in the decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral, so that something might be done for the preservation of the frescoes in the Royal Gallery. He knew that they were under very unfavourable conditions; that the atmosphere which prevailed about the Houses of Parliament was not at all favourable for the preservation of works of that kind. Indeed, the atmosphere was most unfavourable to the House itself, because the chemicals from the works not very far away were crumbling the stone work of the river front, as anyone could see who took the trouble to look.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) trusted that the right. hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works would respond to the eloquent and touching appeal made by his hon. friend. Some hon. Members had interrupted his friend with ribald laughter and unseemly levity, but he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would treat this matter of the threatened destruction of works of art due to Irish genius in a very different spirit. He desired to call attention to Item B, for maintenance and repair of the clock tower. It was startling to think that the charges for these had risen from £6,600 to £8,000. For such a large increase as £1,400 they were entitled to a much fuller explanation than had yet been given. His old friend, the Member for Scotland——

*MR. WEIR: The Member for Ross and Cromarty.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Well, his old friend the Member for Ross and Cromarty had already called attention to the very remarkable item of £3,550 for the supply and repair of furniture, floorcloth, and mats. That was a remarkable increase of £2,500. More details should be furnished to the Committee as to how this large sum had been expended. They all wanted to assist the right hon. Gentleman in getting through his Estimates, because he had shown the greatest courtesy throughout these discussions.

*MR. HARCOURT said that the cost of lighting Big Ben was, roughly speaking, £240 a year. The green light was cheaper than the present light by about £80, but he was not prepared to revert to the experiment of last year unless he was assured that hon. Members thought it desirable, and that the public would ultimately become accustomed to it in the interests of economy. An hon. Member had asked where the water consumed in the House came from. It was not drawn from artesian wells: it was a supply from the Chelsea Water Works. He had been asked questions about furniture and castors. He would investigate and report to the hon. Member who raised the question, whose eagle eye nothing seemed to escape. He had thrown out a suggestion that the position of officials in this House might be changed, and it was only made subject to certain alterations being found possible. He did not suggest that the space for strangers should be decreased, but he thought that if they could increase the seating accommodation by another bench to hold ten, the change would be for the manifest convenience of the House. He was sorry to say that he could not give the number of pensioners employed in the House and he could not promise to employ any considerable number of these men in such work as that of engineers, in which special fitness was necessary. In all other departments connected with buildings under his control it was his desire to give places to pensioners whenever it was possible. As to the frescoes and other decorations, he had found upon inspection that no serious deterioration or perishing was taking place. Undoubtedly there was some fading, owing largely to the particular medium which had been employed. To attempt anything like colour restoration would be hopelessly to destroy the merit of the artist's achievement, but every effort was being made to preserve the work in accordance with the advice of the best experts. No pains, he could assure hon. Members, would be neglected to preserve these works, which in addition to their own merits had become historic. The hon. Member for North Down had asked a question as to an item of £1,400 for maintenance and repairs. Nearly £1,000 was for the removal of the paint in the innermost lobby which had been vandalised and vulgarised by painting. He proposed to take off the paint and restore the lobby to its original appearance. Another £300 was for the laying of water mains and the removal and renewal of the cisterns, which were in a very dirty state. All the cisterns would now be put in a sanitary condition. He was asked how £3,500 for the supply of furniture last year had been spent, but he of course was not responsible for that expenditure. He believed that the particulars which the hon. Member wanted would be found in the details of expenditure laid before the Public Accounts Committee. He had put his estimate at the same figure as last year, acting upon the information he had received from expert officials of long experience.

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £48,000, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for expenses in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

*MR. WEIR called attention to expenditure upon certain Embassies. £26,000 had been spent upon the purchase of a Legation House at Christiania, whilst at Nagasaki, an important port in Japan, only £5,700 had been required for rebuilding the Consulate. A large sum, £46,600, had been spent on a new Embassy at Madrid, and in his opinion the expenditure under this head was excessive.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD called attention to the fact that there were not forty Members present.

House counted, and forty Members being present,

*MR. WEIR resumed his speech and condemned the excessive expenditure upon these buildings.

MR. STANLEY WILSON referred to the cost of the old Legation at Madrid, and to the cost of the Consular buildings at Nagasaki, the Estimate in regard to which, he claimed, had been largely increased. He was referring to the rebuilding of the Consulate at Nagasaki. He did not hear what the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty, who, he believed, referred to this subject, had said, owing to the great amount of conversation that was going on in the House, and therefore if he had referred to anything to which the hon. Member had called attention he hoped the Committee would excuse him. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman would give the Committee a satisfactory reply as to these revised and increased Estimates.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he noticed that these items had been much increased in the revised Estimates. The proportion of increase under "A" was no less than £13,000 over the Estimate of last year. As against that increase there was on one item a paltry and, in his opinion, an entirely uncalled-for economy. He referred to Vote 7, Item A.—for the maintenance of Crimean cemeteries. Last year £700 was voted for the purpose of keeping in decent and honourable condition the graves of those who fought and fell for their country. Many hon. Members had received communication from friends who had been to these places, saying how badly these graves were kept, but the fact remained that last year £700 was spent upon them. In the item for the coming year, however, there was only £300 for that purpose. It seemed to him that while the department did not hesitate to add £13,000 to this particular Vote they were going to be guilty of a paltry economy in the item required for keeping in decent order the graves of our illustrious dead in the Crimea.

*Mr. MORTON said he quite agreed that we ought to look after the graves of those who fought and died in the service of the country. But in this country it was the practice, having got all they could out of their soldiers, to let them, if they were not killed, do the best they could for themselves, and to let their wives and children go to the workhouse. Wherever he found revised and increased Estimates, he always viewed them with suspicion, because they were entitled to regard the original Estimates as showing the total cost. Efficient persons were employed to prepare these Estimates, and they were therefore entitled to regard them as accurate. But some of them knew that Estimates, not only public, but private, were sometimes purposely made low to get them adopted, and that they were increased afterwards. He therefore asked for a full and satisfactory explanation of these increases. He quite agreed with the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty that they ought to look with suspicion on the expenditure on these old places in Spain, and on the sum proposed to be expended on some place in Japan. No doubt large sums of money were wasted in this way. The reason that economy must be practised in these matters was that the money was wanted for other purposes. While this sort of thing went on how was it possible for him to get the few hundreds he wanted for improvements in Sutherlandshire? His objection to voting for these increased Estimates was that the present Government, like the previous Government, were neglecting Sutherlandshire. He wanted to follow up the suggestion of the Prime Minister and colonise our own country, and that could not be done without money.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT called attention to the item under the head of Appendix: "List of buildings the maintenance of which is provided for under Sub-head B." He said the right hon. Member, if he looked at page 29, would find items such as the Embassy houses at Berlin, Constantinople, Paris, Petersburg and Tokio mentioned, and Legation and Consular buildings in China, Japan, Corea, Egypt, Siam and Zanzibar. What he desired to know was under what heading the Committee could find provision made for the Legations at Berne, Bucharest, the Hague and others not mentioned in that list in the "Appendix." With regard to page 27, he thought they ought to have some explanation of the amount of £7,476, which was proposed to be voted for the erection of a new Consulate at Dakar, and some further explanation of the enormous amount to be voted for the new Embassy at Madrid.

*Mr. HARCOURT said the item of £26,000 for Christiania would explain itself. A new monarchy had arisen in Europe; with that monarchy this country naturally had great sympathy. It was a monarchy allied to us by marriage, and it was eminently desirable that the British Crown and the British people should be well represented. For that £26,000 we had been able to make a satisfactory purchase of an extremely desirable house. With regard to the buildings in Japan, they had not been kept up quite to the mark of late years, when the development of British commerce and industry in Japan, which was the result of the alliance, was considered. In the matter of Embassy buildings they were pursuing a policy which he believed to be the right one, of gradually securing freeholds. In Madrid a new property had been bought, the old one being unsuitable in situation and accommodation. The old Embassy house would be sold, and the amount realised would be at all events an asset against the expenditure in securing and equipping the new Embassy. He thought if hon. Members inquired next year they would find the bargain not a bad one. Generally, it was a case of improving an Embassy in a manner befitting the representative of the Crown in a country which was going to be closely allied to us by marriage.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said his point was as to the increase of the cost from £40,000 to £46,000.

*MR. HARCOURT said he was sorry he could not carry in his head exactly what the increase was for. He would be delighted to supply the hon. Member with the information later if that would satisfy him. With regard to the increase of £13,000 on the total Vote, that was due to the necessity of providing a new Legation in Christiania. As to the expenditure on the Crimean cemeteries, they had always had the liability of keeping those cemeteries in order.

*MR. MORTON: It has been declared by travellers over and over again that these cemeteries are not kept in good repair.

*Mr. HARCOURT said if the hon. Gentleman could bring any proof of that he would take steps in the matter.

*LORD BALCARRES said that the charge of extravagance brought against the Department was in his opinion entirely unfounded. His hon. friend had drawn attention to the difference between the original and revised Estimates for various public buildings. If any Department was to blame it was the Treasury, and not the Office of Works, which made the original Estimate, submitted it to the Treasury, and, for reasons which no doubt seemed good to the Treasury, the Estimate was sometimes deferred for as long as four years. In the meantime naturally the price at which the site could be acquired had risen and the Estimate had to be revised accordingly. It might be wrong that these delays should take place, but he did not think the hon. Member was justified in placing the whole responsibility on the Office of Works. The Office of Works was the one Department of the service of the State of which it could properly be said that it exercised economy. On the one hand the Office of Works was charged with extravagance, and on the other with parsimony. For the Crimean cemeteries last year £700 was voted; this year £300 was voted, an economy of £400. Somebody had said this was disrespectful to our dead soldiers who now lie in the cemeteries in the Crimea. There again the hon. Member did the Office of Works an injustice. If he examined the Estimates with a little more precision he would observe that this particular sum was for new works, alterations, and additions. The ordinary maintenance of the Crimean cemeteries did not come under this Vote at all. That item, together with the salaries of custodians and others, came under another sub-head. It was no doubt right, and certainly it was fashionable to attack public Departments, and, incidentally, the Ministers responsible for them as being highly extravagant. He thought the more carefully these estimates were examined, especially in the case of the Office of Works, the more it would be found that the responsible Minister and the permanent officials had studied the interests of economy.

*MR. MORTON said they did not charge the right hon. Gentleman with extravagance. What they said was that as there was an increase in the estimates they were entitled to a full explanation, because in many cases it was the fault of the officials in making the original estimates.

Vote agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £8,400 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for Osborne."

*MR. MORTON asked why the convalescent home at Osborne was used only for officers. He thought Tommy Atkins ought to have the benefit of it as well as the officers.

MR. STANLEY WILSON said the whole of this Vote showed a considerable increase, and some explanation was necessary. He thought it was the right hon. Gentleman's duty to give the Committee some explanation of the various increases in the expenditure upon the different items of this Vote.

*MR. HARCOURT, in reply to the hon. Member for Sutherland, said that Osborne was not available for private soldiers. The estate was presented to the nation for specified purposes set out in the Act of 1902 for the benefit of officers of the naval and military services and others. An item of £850 for work incident to the discontinuance of the generation of electric current and the transfer to a supply from the local company's mains would ultimately effect a saving of £150 a year. He thought that was a good bargain for the taxpayer.

Vote agreed to.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £426,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Customs, Inland Revenue, Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, and certain Post Offices abroad, including Furniture, Fuel, and sundry Miscellaneous Services."

MR. STANLEY WILSON said that this Vote showed a decrease in one item; there were also several increases. With regard to the Post Office buildings he found that whilst the expenditure upon alterations had fallen, maintenance had increased from £57,850 to £62,650. He thought that was an item which required the careful attention of the right hon. Gentleman. There were several other items in which increases had occurred and to which he desired to call the attention of the First Commissioner.

*MR. HARCOURT said the increases were mainly due to variations from original estimates in the course of extensions and adaptations of old Post Office buildings.

MR. MORTON drew attention to several increases in expenditure and asked for some information about the new power station at Blackfriars.

*MR. HARCOURT said the increases were due to alterations from the original estimates, which was not an unusual thing in connection with the erection of new buildings.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS hoped attention would be given to the post office at Canterbury, now quite inadequate in its accommodation. He had frequently directed the attention of the Government to this matter.

*MR. HARCOURT said he would make inquiry and inform the right hon. Gentleman of the result. Certainly the city should be well provided, if only as a testimonial to its Member, from whom had emanated so many suggestions for postal reform.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 234; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 81.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galwy
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)

Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Kean, John
M‘Kenna, Reginald
K‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northant)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Nuttall Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tillett, Louis John
Torrance, A. M.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Alexander
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Forster, Henry William
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Parket, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Valentia, Viscount
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Watson Rutherford and Captain Craig.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £61,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens."

*MR. MORTON said that he had intended to call attention to the condition of Linlithgow Palace or Peel, but he would defer that until he could raise on the salary of the right hon. Gentleman the whole question of the proper maintenance of the royal castles and palaces in Scotland.

*SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.) said he wished to call attention to an act of vandalism which had been committed on Primrose Hill. Something like a quarter of an acre had been railed off for the erection of a private studio for Mr. Brock, wherein the memorial to Her late Majesty was being prepared. It was a huge unsightly building forty feet high, and there were many persons in the district of Primrose Hill who felt that the amenities of that neighbourhood had been seriously interfered with. A much more suitable and sequestered site for the building might have been selected. His criticism, of course, was not directed to the object of the building, but his constituents strongly objected to being deprived of access to that part of Primrose Hill. Their resentment was not to be appeased by his right hon. friend's humorous offer the other day to paint the building any colour desired. His right hon. friend had shown him a plan of the building, but the building there shown bore about the same relation to the real thing as St. Margaret's Church bore to Westminster Abbey. What he wanted to know was who was to pay for the building, and how long it was to remain there?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he had had representations made by many persons who wished to visit Kew Gardens on Sunday that the gardens were not open to the public before 1 o'clock. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see to it that the gardens were open the whole day on Sunday.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) hoped that Richmond Park would be opened at 6.30 a.m. during the summer months to riders and cyclists. His constituents were very early risers, and could not get their proper exercise when the gates, except the foot gate, were kept closed until 7 or 8 o'clock. The alteration could be made at very little expense. In any case he thought the foot-gates might be altered so as to admit cyclists.

MR. T. L. CORBETT asked how many unemployed labourers had been taken on and given work in Hyde Park, St. James' Park, and the Green Park during the last three months, and what these men were paid.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (Mr. CALDWELL, Lanarkshire, Mid.): We are not discussing the unemployed question just now.

LORD BALCARRES said surely his hon. friend was entitled to ask the responsible Minister if he had given any employment to the unemployed.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was quite in order in asking what employment was being given to the unemployed; but he was going further and discussing, with considerable reiteration, the general question of the unemployed, and the Unemployed Workmen's Act.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he only wished to know how many labourers had been employed in, say, Hyde Park during the winter, and what wages had been paid to them.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the parks cost a large sum of money, but they could not be kept in good order unless that sum was expended. His attention had been particularly called to this matter, and a serious question arose as to whether the parks were being properly safeguarded against the evils with which they were threatened. There was before a Committee a proposal for the erection of an electrical generating station by the London County Council at Battersea. That would involve the burning of additional coal in London to the extent of 400,000 tons a year, and this quantity in five or six years would be doubled, so that there would be 800,000 tons more coal consumed in the centre of London than heretofore. The smoke from these works would have a very evil effect on vegetation in the public parks and gardens of the Metropolis. The Committee dealing with the proposal had had before them that very day three gentlemen of great scientific attainments, who had given their evidence in a very satisfactory manner. The evidence in regard to parks was that this 400,000 tons of coal per annum, which was to be burned in connection with this electrical scheme, would involve the creation of a large amount of carbonic acid gas, because every ton of coal consisted of about 80 per cent of pure carbon.

*The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That is not a question which can be discussed on the Estimates. It is a scientific question. Besides, it is not in order to discuss the evidence of a witness given before a Committee of the House which has not reported.

*Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said he wished to raise a question which he thought might be answered with the other questions that had been put. He wished to ask about riding in Hyde Park. There were a great many people who rode in the Park, as he did, every day of their lives, and he would suggest that the present space for their accommodation should be extended. He thought it desirable that the present road should be extended beyond the Albert Memorial towards Kensington Palace. He did not know how much it would cost, but no doubt the right hon. Gentleman would consider that question. He had brought the matter before the notice of the permanent officials, but he now wished to bring it under the notice of the First Commissioner. The road in question would run through a place which was very little used by pedestrians. Indeed it was only used by people proceeding to their houses in the vicinity of Kensington Palace. He was quite sure that the right hon. Gentleman would consider the question on its merits, and he could assure him that it was of very great interest to a great many people.

Mr. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said he had often ridden in the Park and his experience was that riders there were decreasing rather than increasing, more attention being now given to golf. Considering the small number of people who availed themselves of the existing riding facilities he thought quite enough money was being spent for their accommodation.

*Dr. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey) moved to reduce the Vote by £100 for the purpose of raising the question of the rate of wages which the Government paid to their gardeners in the royal parks. These gardeners in London alone numbered more than 300 and their wages were only 24s. a week. He thought that was very low and considerably below the standard rate of wages. The men worked during the three winter months forty-eight hours a week and during the other nine months of the year fifty-four hours a week. They could not, on account of the excessive rents, live in the immediate vicinity of the parks, and even when they went to live at a distance they had out of their scanty earnings to pay 7s. or 8s. a week in the way of rent for two or three rooms. On such a wage it was impossible for a man properly to support a wife and bring up a family. Some of them lived as far away as Hammersmith and in addition to their rent they had to pay a considerable sum in travelling expenses. He was only asking the right hon. Gentleman to put these men on the trade union scale of 27s. a week. Under the London County Council gardeners received 27s. and they rose to 30s. a week, but the London County Council, before it paid 28s., asked that the gardeners should pass an examination by the Royal Horticultural Society. The Government ought to be the model employers of labour in the kingdom and should not pay below the trade union rate of wages for this class of work, and he hoped he had advanced very good reasons why they should increase it. He was informed also that there were bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters, and painters in the employ of this Department who did not receive the trade union rate of pay. If this were so these workmen ought to receive their trade union rate, as he maintained the Government should set a good example in this matter and always pay its workmen the rate paid by the best employers. In the case of the gardeners they had no uniforms given them, whereas the constables in the parks had uniforms and received 27s. a week. It was true that the constables worked seven days a week, but it should be remembered that they were Army pensioners already in receipt of money from the State. They at all events were better off in respect of a weekly income than the men who did the work of the parks.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £61,400, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Cooper.*)

*MR. HARCOURT regretted that the temporary building which was now being erected for the purpose of protecting the plans and work of the architect engaged on the Queen Victoria Memorial should have caused so much annoyance in the district. It was a temporary building, and directly the work of the memorial was completed it would be removed. He would, however, try and have the building painted some quiet and decorative colour and endeavour to have some creepers planted round it to make it less of an eyesore in the summer at all events. He could not say when it would be removed. It was put up by the direction of the late Government for the convenience of Mr. Brock and had to be where he could do his work for the Queen Victoria Memorial. He reminded the Committee of the great advantage the public gained from the Committee of the Queen Victoria Memorial and suggested that they owed them some temporary accommodation in return. The cost of the erection of the building would be paid for by Mr. Brock out of the fees paid to him for the memorial. With regard to the opening of Kew Gardens at an earlier hour on Sundays, the hon. Member for East Clare perhaps did not appreciate that the services in the Protestant churches commenced later than the services in Catholic churches. If he were to open the gates of Kew Gardens before one o'clock they would be opened only for people who did not attend the Protestant churches, and the gardeners and attendants would be deprived of the opportunity of attending church. He did not see his way to opening the gardens earlier than one o'clock on Sundays. Nor could he see his way to open the gates of Richmond Park earlier than 7 a.m. No doubt it inflicted a great hardship on the hon. Member for Kingston, who as an early riser desired to go into the park at an earlier hour, but to open the gates earlier than 7 a.m. would inflict a greater hardship on the park keepers whose hours were quite long enough already. He would consider the question of adapting some of the park gates for the admission of cycles. With regard to the wages paid to the unemployed in Hyde Park he could give no information on the point. They were not employed by him. All he did was to approach the Central Committee of the unemployed and point out a field in which they might employ some of these men if they chose to pay them. He further said in order that the Central Committee should not be put to any greater expense than the payment of the men, he would find sufficient out of the margin of some Vote or other to pay for the persons employed to supervise and overlook the men while at their work. They were employed in digging gravel and in removing railings, the removal of which had greatly added to the beauty of the park, and as he had been able to utilise those railings in railing off a spot near Kingston Gate, in Richmond Park, where there had been a certain amount of danger from swerving carriages to the foot passengers the expenditure had not been an unremunerative one. He had issued a memorandum on the subject of electric generating stations, and had asked the Select Committees to receive two or three witnesses as being suitable to assist in their inquiry, and he had also suggested a clause for insertion in private Bills. He regretted the tone assumed by the hon. Member for the West Derby Division of Liverpool about one of these witnesses who, at his request, had tendered himself to give evidence. The hon. Member thought that this witness might have read the Bill. There was no compulsion on the witness to read the Bill. He appeared before the Committee merely to give information as to the effects of combustion, and had no concern with the particular clause of the Bill. It was not encouraging either to a Minister or to experts asked to give information to the House and to its Committees if they were to be treated with such scant consideration by the members before whom they appeared. The hon. Member for Gravesend had asked for an extension of facilities for riding beyond Hyde Park. Personally he was hostile to the idea of extending Rotten Row through Kensington Gardens, and he would never consent. If it were extended he believed that the ancient and historic calm of Kensington Gardens would be destroyed. If riders were allowed to go there, carriage and motor-car traffic would follow, and he saw no reason why the riders should have any special facilities. At the present time this beautiful old-world park and gardens were devoted mainly to the pleasure and happiness of the children who were, except perhaps from a few decayed trees, subject to no danger whatever. He should be very sorry to see riders and carriages going through Kensington Gardens, and certainly would not be inclined to ask the Committee to authorise an extension for that purpose. As to the bricklayers and other workmen not being paid the current rate of wages, he could not believe from the inquiries he had made that the case had been fairly represented, and he would like to receive further information from the hon. Member. The "trade union rate of wages" was not a phrase he was permitted to use by the Resolution of the House, and he could only act on the strict phraseology of the fair wages Resolution. He had received memorials from the park labourers and gardeners as to their wages, and he had considered them very carefully. He had been released from the pressure of the Committee upon the subject, for which he was very glad, because the Department wished the park labourers to understand and to know that these questions affecting them were considered without reference to political considerations. He proposed to raise the wages of the park labourers of London on and after July 1st, from 24s. to 27s. a week, which was the rate of the London County Council and of the best employers. In the country the rise would be from 21s. to 23s. a week. For gangers and foremen there would be a similar increase. The wages of park-keepers in the country would be raised from 24s. to 25s., and of sergeant-keepers from 27s. to 28s. a week. These two classes were pensionable men, it should be remembered. He hoped this extension of wages to what he believed to be a fair and reasonable scale, and which put the Government in the position of the best employer, would satisfy not only the Committee, but the men themselves, and that the men would reciprocate by giving their best work.

*Dr. COOPER said he desired to withdraw his Motion after the right hon. Gentleman's satisfactory statement.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said they could compliment the right hon. Gentlemen not only on his courteous replies to most of the queries, but also on the immense amount of knowledge and minute care which he had evidently given to every branch of his Department. But he thought the right hon. Gentlemen was scarcely fair to him just now with reference to the maintenance of the royal parks. His point was that there was a certain Department in charge of these parks, and the evidence they had was that these parks had been suffering very severely of late years, and that it was almost impossible now to grow some trees which used to be grown with great facility. The sycamore could not now be grown in Hyde Park with a reasonable chance of success. That was not the case some ten or fifteen years ago. There was a number of other instances of the kind. The evidence they had as to the condition of the parks was exceedingly valuable, and the right hon. Gentleman was to be congratulated upon having sent three gentlemen to-day to a Committee to give scientific evidence of great importance. A counsel, however, before the Committee was unfortunately able to take away a very large portion of the weight of these gentlemen's evidence by asking whether they had read the Bill, and the witnesses were obliged to say they had not.

Mr. MADDISON: On a point of order; Mr. Caldwell, when in the chair, distinctly ruled out of order the course the hon. Gentleman is now pursuing.

*The CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is at all usual to refer to proceedings of a Committee.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he had no intention of referring to the proceedings of the Committee with a view of commenting on them in any way, but the salary of one of the witnesses to whom he was referring was in this Vote, and all he was saying was that it was a good thing these officials were watching projects and were prepared to go before a Committee of this House to look after the interest of the parks.

MR. MADDISON: I rise to a point of order. You, Sir, ruled it was irregular to refer to a Committee's proceedings, and the very matter the hon. Gentleman is now pursuing has been distinctly ruled out of order by your predecessor in the Chair, and I ask whether you are going to uphold that ruling or not.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he must make it perfectly clear that it was not in order to ask him about the ruling of the Deputy-Chairman; but he had told the hon. Gentleman it was not usual to refer to the proceedings of a Committee, and he must ask him to desist.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said his anxiety was to see that these parks were preserved in the best manner possible, and his object was to compliment the right hon. Gentleman upon having taken the course he had in sending these scientific witnesses before the Committee.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) appealed for an assurance that Mr. Brock's studio would be removed at the very earliest moment. He would also like to know if the Government contemplated taking any steps to reduce the amount of black smoke which was so seriously affecting the shrubs and plants.

*MR. HARCOURT replied that Mr. Brock's temporary studio would be removed so soon as the great work was finished upon which Mr. Brock was now engaged. As to the destruction of trees and shrubs in the park by smoke, he had prepared a clause, which he hoped would be inserted in the Bill now before the Committee, so as to provide that only the best coal should be used and treated so as to reduce the amount of smoke.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he observed that the First Commissioner of Works had promised to raise gardeners' wages from 24s. to 27s. a week. What would that cost? He thought they ought to know exactly what they were doing before they consented to this new arrangement.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND thought it was time for somebody to call attention to the tactics being pursued by the Opposition. About ten months ago there was the strongest possible complaint made of the treatment of the gardeners, and when the right hon. Gentleman, in one of the most satisfactory statements they had heard for a long time, told the Committee that he was about to bring these wages up to the rate paid by the London County Council and other employers, the hon. Member for North Down at once found fault on the ground that it would make a considerable increase in the cost. He hoped that those who were in favour of the payment of a fair and reasonable wage for Government employees in the parks and elsewhere would take note of the fact that directly the statement was made that a fair and reasonable rate of wages would be paid to the gardeners in future a quibbling point was raised by the hon. Member for North Down. He did not mind hon. Members making a fair amount of criticism, because he had done the same thing himself, but when they secured a satisfactory reply in the interests of the work-people, even in days when obstruction was fashionable, they were always satisfied with such concessions. He thought the First Commissioner had met the points raised in a conciliatory spirit, and in a way which during his twenty-three years experience in the House of Commons he had never before seen equalled. The right hon. Gentleman was kind enough, in reply to a question, to state that a certain arrangement had been made in regard to the opening of Kew Gardens out of consideration for the religious susceptibilities of certain people. He accepted that statement and withdrew his objection, because there was no member of the Committee who had greater respect for the religious susceptibilities of all denominations than he had himself. He hoped that during the whole of the present session the utmost consideration would be shown to religious susceptibilities, not only in this matter, but also in reference to other more important matters.

*SIR GILBERT PARKER desired information as to the number of Volunteer corps that had availed themselves of the permission to drill in Richmond Park. Three years ago, under the pressure of a good many Volunteer corps, he urged the then First Commissioner of Works to open Richmond Park under certain restrictions to Volunteer corps to carry out their evolutions on certain days in the week. That permission was granted, but doubts were presented then as to the advisability of this course. Had this action been justified by the results ?

*COLONEL LEGGE asked what was to be done with what used to be the deputy-ranger's house in Hyde Park. He also asked the First Commissioner to do what he could to prevent demonstrations taking place when the grass was growing. Hyde Park was a favourite place for demonstrations, and he gathered from what he read occasionally that the demonstrations were intended to overawe the dwellers in Park Lane whom he had the honour of representing. He could assure the Committe that these demonstrations did not overawe them. On the contrary they welcomed their friends there. He suggested that the First Commissioner of Works should ask the organisers of the demonstrations not to hold them just at the time when the grass was growing. He hoped the hon. Member for Woolwich and his friends would bear in mind that that was not the best time to go there. He wished to know why Storey's Gate had been removed.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said the hon. Member for East Clare had for obvious reasons attacked him as if he were in favour of keeping the wages of the gardeners at 24s. instead of their being increased to 27s. He believed the announcement of the First Commissioner would be welcomed in every part of the Committee, and he simply asked whether he could state what the annual cost of that increase would be. He thought that was a fair and legitimate question to ask, and it was a most unfair inference from his question that he was opposed to the wages being raised.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I admit I was mistaken. I see now that the hon. Gentleman's object all this evening—although I have been so stupid that I could not recognise it—has been to help the Government.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I am glad it has at last dawned on the hon. Member for East Clare that I, in common with himself and all true patriots, am desirous of helping the Government in every legitimate good work.

*MR. HARCOURT said that for nine months from July 1st the cost of the increased wages would be £2,000. For a full year it would be about £2,600.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I am more than satisfied.

*MR. HARCOURT said that with regard to the question of the hon. Member for Gravesend, he could not say how many Volunteers had used Richmond Park, but as far as he knew there had been no interference with the enjoyment by the public. No suggestion had been made to him that it was necessary to limit the permission extended to the Volunteers. The deputy-ranger's house in Hyde Park had ceased to be an official residence and was now a grace and favour residence. It had been granted to General Sir Stanley Clarke. The repairs were being done by the Office of Works, but an annual amount would be paid by the tenant during a period of eleven or thirteen years which would pay off the cost. The question of preventing demonstrations in the park when the grass was growing he could not deal with. Public necessity and Education Bills and other things did not know the seasons of the grass. They could not arrest the ordinary courses of nature in order that the grass might be free from the excitement that arose from time to time under our present system of government. He gave instructions some time ago for the removal of Storey's Gate, but what had been done did not prevent the possibility of the gate being closed, for there was an arrangement by which the side gates could be extended. Every one of these questions could be raised on the Vote for his salary.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £46,000, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1907, in respect of Royal Palaces."

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD thought that some explanation ought to be made by the right hon. Gentleman of the increase of over £5,000 in the Vote for the upkeep of the Royal Palaces.

***Mr. HARCOURT** said that it was discovered that during last winter that it was necessary to repair the roof of the picture gallery at Buckingham Palace, and expenditure had to be incurred in completing the external drainage as well as in carrying on considerable improvement works on Marlborough House.

Vote agreed to.

7. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £317, 000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

Mr. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) said he noticed that there was an increase on this Vote of £53,000, which he thought required a certain amount of explanation from the right hon. Gentleman. There was a sum of over £13,000 for the new residences of the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Senior Naval Lord. He believed that these residences were to be built at the east end of the Mall. When were they to be commenced, and when would the road from the Mall be opened into Trafalgar Square? Where was Mr. Watts' statue "Physical Energy" to be erected? There was an item for a Mercantile Marine Office at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The original estimate was £4,200, the revised estimate was £5,200. What was the reason for this increase? Then he wanted very much to know when the new War Office was to be opened, and why there should be such a difference in the original and the revised estimates for the Magnetic Observatory.

Mr. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central) desired to call attention to the condition of the Scottish Law Courts which a Departmental Committee had been appointed to inquire into in 1903.

The CHAIRMAN inquired if there was any money for the Scottish Law Courts in the Vote before the Committee.

Mr. C. E. PRICE said that on page 50 there was a reference to the Scottish Law Courts, and at page 48 it referred to new buildings. He complained there were no new buildings.

***The CHAIRMAN** said he would hear what the hon. Member had to say, as he saw there was an item for furniture with regard to the Law Courts.

Mr. C. E. PRICE said that in 1903 a Departmental Committee was appointed to inquire into the condition of the Scottish Law Courts. They made a report which the Commissioner of Works had not seen his way to carry out. In the Outer Courts they had four Courts for five Judges, and the consequence was that the Judges had to move from one Court to another. The Courts were moreover in a disgraceful condition. They were only twenty feet by thirty feet.

***The CHAIRMAN** said he was sorry he could not allow the hon. Member to go on. What he was saying was clearly not in order.

Mr. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) inquired whether it would be in order to move the reduction of the Vote in order to call attention to the condition of the Scottish Courts. If so he would move it.

***The CHAIRMAN** said clearly that was not in order. There was no expenditure on the Vote for this purpose, and therefore the hon. Member could not move a reduction.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD asked as a point of order whether the hon.

Member could not call attention to the condition of the Scottish Law Courts under an item on page 48—

"Ordinary repairs and maintenance of public and ecclesiastical buildings, £4,600.

*The CHAIRMAN said a question as to the Scottish Law Courts did not arise upon that item.

*Mr. HARCOURT said if he for a moment might be disorderly he thought he could satisfy hon. Members, as he was acquainted with the circumstances to which they referred, the special needs of the Scottish Courts and the fact that the late Government were willing to consider this matter. He had promised several hon. Members that he would go down to Edinburgh during the summer and inspect the Scottish Courts and see what could be done. He should then be in a position to make recommendations to the House. It had been suggested to him unofficially that the remedy might be to reduce the number of Scottish Judges rather than to increase the number of Courts. One reason for the increase of the Vote had regard to the Vaccine Station at Hendon and another was the increased cost of a Mercantile Marine office at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The new Admiralty buildings at the east end of the Mall had been begun. He hoped the roadway leading into Trafalgar-square would be opened early in 1909. As to the situation for the statue "Physical Energy," left to the nation by Mr. Watts, he was inclined to think it would look best at the end of the Serpentine, above the dell. If the difficulty of getting a bronze casting into that position could be overcome, he thought it would be the finest place in London for the statue. He hoped that the new buildings of the War Office would be opened for occupation early next year.

Mr. ALEXANDER CROSS wished to express his high appreciation of the exceedingly courteous way in which the right hon. Gentleman had met the members of the Committee. He wished, however, to call attention to the small amount spent upon the maintenance and protection of ancient monuments and historic buildings in Scotland. In England £10,966 was spent on this purpose and only £1,544 in Scotland, where many ancient buildings had been allowed to fall into disrepair and ruin when at a small expense they could be maintained.

Mr. STANLEY WILSON said the right hon. Gentleman had not explained why in regard to the Vaccine Station at Hendon the estimate had increased from £28,100 to £30,000.

*Mr. WEIR said the First Commissioner of Works had not answered the Question of his friend with regard to the Vaccination Station at Hendon. He wanted to know whether when it was finished it would provide all the calf lymph for this country. He rose to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the fact that he would have to keep his eye on these expenditures and see that they did not increase. There was an increase of £2,000 in the revised Estimate for the purposes of this Vaccination Station at Hendon, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman should give an explanation as to why that £2,000 should be added to the £28,000 already set down in the original Estimate for this purpose. The gentlemen who prepared the plans and specifications and got out the quantities ought to have furnished a correct Estimate. If they could not do that they were not fit for their position. He further desired to call attention to the way in which Scotland was treated. If the right hon. Gentleman turned to the Estimate for "ordinary repairs of public and ecclesiastical buildings" he would find that while £83,900 was provided for England and Wales for that purpose all that was allotted to Scotland was £4,600. Then again, in the matter of caretakers, whilst England and Wales took £11,250, Scotland was allowed £40 only. He desired to press the right hon. Gentleman for some explanation as to the reason why Scotland was given such a contemptible sum.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £34,800 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for expenses in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again,"—(*Mr. Harcourt*),—put and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

THE ALIENS BILL.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said he desired to ask the Patronage Secretary a Question concerning an occurrence in another place. He wished to ask the hon. Gentleman what action the Government intended to take, if any, in connection with the rejection of the Aliens Bill by the House of Lords. This Bill was a small Bill which had passed the House of Commons without opposition. The principle involved in it was the keeping out of aliens who were being brought into this country under contract to take the places of British workmen engaged in a trade dispute. The alien was excluded because he was a foreigner under the law as it now stood, but no matter how poor he happened to be, if he came for the purpose of taking the place of British workmen who might be locked out, he could, without further question, evade the provisions of the Aliens Act.

The Bill had been discussed last session, and probably hon. Members on both sides of the House thought there was this year no occasion to reopen it. It went to a Second Reading in another place, and was rejected by a very large vote, and what he wished to ask was why the Government did not put one of its members there in charge of the measure. Two members of the late Government in another place stated they were willing to let the Bill be read a second time, provided some member of the Government would take the responsibility of the Bill at that stage. No response was made by the Government to that offer. It seemed to him therefore that the Government had failed in its duty towards the measure. He wished to know how long the Government intended to countenance and tolerate the existence of another place which was totally irresponsible to the country, and had power to make, mar, or mutilate a measure passed by the House which had, at all events, been elected to represent the people of the country. Was the democracy of Great Britain to be a reality or a sham? As things stood it was to all intents and purposes a sham. Were they in another place to ride rough-shod over measures passed by the House of Commons?

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich) had also heard the debate in the House of Lords, which suggested to anyone listening that the House of Commons was non-existent. The House of Lords had got it into their heads that the Bill had had something to do with protection or free trade. It did no doubt mean protection, but it was the protection of the workman against the sweater, and not the protection that they talked about, which was the protection of the sweater against the worker. It was a strange thing that this House should be called in to instruct the other Assembly as to what they were to do. He heard the debate, and it appeared to him that the other House wanted a pledge that this Bill should be amended in Committee before they would give it a Second Reading, and failing to obtain that pledge they threw it out. He agreed with the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil that it was nearly time they went out to the nation and told them clearly that there was an Assembly which represented no one but themselves, which wasted all the energies of the representatives of the people, and opposed all the reforms that they were trying to bring about, and that so long as the House of Lords existed there was no room for a House of Commons. Then, he ventured to say, the people would rise in their wrath and put an end to that wonderful Assembly.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said the Bill to which allusion had been made had passed through all its stages in the House of Commons, practically unopposed, and, as he understood, with the general assent and support of the House. Many of those on that side of the House, and indeed, in all parts of the House, were concerned at the somewhat regrettable incident that a Bill passed without opposition in that House should have been summarily rejected in another place. But he pointed out that, after all was said and done, it was a private Member's Bill, and it was not the business or the custom of a Government to take up a private Member's Bill as a Government Bill in another place. But, although the Government did not do so in this instance, he might say that he in his private capacity, not as a member of the Government, did to some extent interest himself, understanding that the hon. Member for Barnard Castle had not a noble Lord within the circle of his acquaintance. He did not think there was any occasion upon which a Government had taken up a private Member's Bill—not as an ordinary thing—of course, it had been done. But the question of what the Government would do should be addressed to the Prime Minister, and he ventured to suggest that the Motion for Adjournment for the Whitsuntide holidays would afford a convenient opportunity.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) asked if the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury would give an assurance to the House that he would inform the Prime Minister of what had taken place on the Motion for Adjournment. That was, he said, what was done on a previous occasion, and he hoped that the Patronage Secretary would not depart from precedent in this matter. He hoped the Patronage Secretary would follow the practices of the late Government and would intimate to the Prime Minister what had taken place.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY said he would readily give the assurance. But in point of fact notice that this question was to be raised had only reached him about three minutes to eleven, or he would have endeavoured to secure the attendance of the Prime Minister. In fact he did go to his hon. friend's private room, but he was not there.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON said he did not wish the House or the Patronage Secretary to be under the impression that he desired the Prime Minister to be in his place when these discussions took place. All he asked the hon. Gentleman to do was kindly to inform the Prime Minister as to what had taken place on the Motion for Adjournment.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY: I shall certainly with pleasure give that assurance to the hon. Member.

Lord R. CECIL regretted that in this House they never had any opportunity of hearing anything about the Bill. He had read the Bill, and his judgment—perhaps quite wrongly—was that the Bill was absolutely unworkable. He had not heard the Patronage Secretary say that the Bill was a good one. He did not know how far it would be in order to refer to the Debate in another place, but, as he understood the hon. Member for Merthyr, a speech was made, certain objections were taken, and the Government were asked to answer those objections. A suggestion was made that if some guarantee was given that the provisions of the Bill would be made workable and serviceable the Bill would be allowed to go through. That being so, he could not see that any objection could be taken to those who sat in another place carrying out what they conceived to be their duty and rejecting the Bill. If hon. Members desired to abolish the House of Lords, that was an intelligible policy—[Cheers.] [AN HON. MEMBER: The sooner the better]—but while that House existed it would be a grave dereliction on the part of hon. Members to complain of its discharging its duties.

MR. PAUL (Northampton) said he understood that in another place the Motion that the Bill should be read a second time that day six months was not moved. What happened was that the Motion that the Bill should now be read a second time was negatived. He would like to know whether that precluded the Bill being brought forward in another place again and so enabling another decision to be taken upon it. Because, as he understood, a Motion which merely negatived the Second Reading of a Bill did not preclude that Bill being brought forward during the same session or at any reasonable time.

MR. J. WARD said that the real reason why this Bill was rejected in another place was because its promoters refused to give a pledge to allow the Bill to be amended out of existence. What he desired to call attention to was that unless some forcible pressure could be brought to bear on the other House, it seemed that most of the proceedings of this House were going to end in an absolute farce. Either the country was autocratically or democratically governed. Probably it would be a good thing to give the nation an opportunity of deciding whether it was in favour of representative government or government by gentlemen who represented no one but themselves.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said, having heard the Lords' debate, he agreed that the question negatived was that the Bill be "now" read a second time. He wished to ask what would be the effect of a similar finding in this House on any Bill, and whether it would not be possible to revive a Bill so negatived at any time.

*MR. SPEAKER: In reply to the hon. Member, I may say that I am quite ignorant of what the rules in another place may be; but, if the same thing should occur in this House as is represented to have occurred in another, there would be nothing to prevent the mover of the Bill from presenting it for the consideration of the House afresh.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda) said he was one of those present when the Bill was discussed and passed in this House and he desired to enter a strong protest on behalf of a very large body of working men against the regrettable incident that had taken place elsewhere this afternoon. The hon. Member recapitulated the position of the question dealt with in the rejected Bill as it appeared to the working people of this country, and expressed the hope that the present democratic Government would prove to the country that they were really in sympathy with the working classes. It did not matter what Government ruled in this country so long as it sympathised with the working man and dealt justly with those whom it represented. He thanked Mr. Speaker for his suggestion and hoped it would be possible for the Government to do in another place what Mr. Speaker had just said it would be possible to do in the House of Commons.

And, it being half-past Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House, pursuant to the Standing Order, without Question put.

Adjourned at thirty minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 18*th May*, 1906.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Newport Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Trent Navigation Company Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]; Crediton Gas Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Carlisle Corporation Bill; read 3^a and passed.

Thorton Urban District Gas Bill; read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2.) Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Kenmare (*E. Kenmare*) be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Duke of Wellington; read, and agreed to.

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill. Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, &c.) Bill. Brought from the Commons. Read 1^a; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 94.)

Cathcart District Railway (Superfluous Lands) Order Confirmation Bill; North Berwick Corporation Order Confirmation Bill. Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools. Of parents or guardians of children attending schools at Beyton; Colne; Blackpool; Bury; Heckleton; Edenfield; Unsworth; Stand; Deane; Heywood. Of teachers in schools at Colne; Bury; Blackburn; Penwortham; Heckleton; Unsworth; Stand; Deane; Heywood; Elton. Of inhabitants of Beyton.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

Correspondence relating to a proposed Colonial Conference in 1907. (In continuation of (Cd. 2785.), November 1905.)

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHERS REPORT).

Report on Admiralty surveys for the year 1905, by the hydrographer.

NATIONAL GALLERY (IRELAND).

Report of the Director to the Board of Governors and Guardians, for the year 1905.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

Statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1904–1905. Forty-first Number.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

EXTRADITION BILL [H.L.]

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL.

Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, before the House resolves itself into Committee on this Bill I should like to say that I have this morning received a communication from the Committee of Lloyd's begging me to move that the Bill be rejected, or that it should, at any rate, be referred to a Select Committee. They object very much to the manner in which the Government monopoly is at present being exercised, and they allege that the claims of the great body of the shipping and mercantile community are being ignored. There are three main companies engaged in wireless telegraphy, and two of them have written to me making a somewhat similar complaint, but I am very glad to say that the noble Earl is about to meet their view. I need hardly say that Lloyd's is a most important institution representing large numbers of those engaged in shipping and insurance. At the same time I feel that without more knowledge of the facts I should not be justified in asking your Lordships to take either of the courses they recommend, but I should have thought this was a Bill which might very well be considered by a small Select Committee. I hope His Majesty's Government will grant a reasonable lapse of time before the next stage is taken.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, I do not think there is any objection to granting the noble Lord's request that there should be a reasonable interval before the next stage is taken. I would remind your Lordships that before the year 1904 there was no legislation in regard to wireless telegraphy outside territorial waters, but in that year the then Postmaster-General, Lord Stanley, found that legislation on the subject was most necessary. Consequently he framed the present Act. Your Lordships will readily understand that from a strategic point of view it is necessary that we should obtain the control of the stations in time of war, and we also desire to prevent the erection of stations too close to each other and to prevent a monopoly from growing up. Of course, if there had been no legislation on the subject a monopoly would have grown up, which the State might have been obliged to purchase afterwards. At present all stations are licensed by the Postmaster-General, and since the Act of 1904 was passed 119 licences have been applied for. Of these ninety-one have been granted or are in process of being granted, fourteen have been abandoned, and others are still under consideration. The object of this Bill as it came up from the House of Commons was to continue in force the powers of the Act of 1904 for six years, but in consequence of the representations of the noble Marquess opposite, the Marquess of Londonderry, the period of extension will be reduced in Committee to three years.

The MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, having had the privilege of occupying the position of Postmaster-General at the time when the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy was first patented, perhaps your Lordships will allow me to say a few words on this subject, which has a very important bearing on the future of the country. I agree with what was said by Lord Avebury that the views of the committee of Lloyds are entitled to great consideration, not only at the hands of your Lordships, but also of the Department to which they appeal. I think myself that the alteration that has been made at my request is one that is only consistent with the policy pursued by the Post Office while the late Government were in power. When the question of wireless telegraphy was before us we had several matters of great importance to consider, and although the Post Office was all-powerful over territorial waters we could not decide on our course of action without co-operating with the Admiralty and the Board of Trade. The heads of those two Departments with myself carefully considered the matter. We realised that when this extraordinary invention became better known it would not be right to check enterprise in any way, but it was necessary to have some hold over it in order that companies that might be formed in the future should not establish installations too close to each other and thus damage themselves and also the public interest. The present Bill is on all fours with the Bill which was introduced by Lord Stanley, and on the question of principle I most heartily endorse the Bill; but there is a small matter of detail to which I think some attention should be given, namely, the question of the extension of time of these licences. It is necessary that the licences should be constantly reviewed, and therefore the period of extension should be limited. My noble friend Lord Stanley, when he introduced his Bill, suggested that the licences should be given permanently. It was pointed out that this would be very detrimental, and he consented to reduce the period to six years. Well, my Lords, I consider six years again too long a period for companies to go without revision, and though I thank the noble Lord for reducing the period of extension at my request from six years to three, I would prefer a period of only two years.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My noble friend who represents the Board of Trade has no right to speak again, but if the noble Marquess will allow the House to go into Committee on the Bill the noble Earl will reply on the first clause.

House in Committee (according to order).

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, I quite agree with the noble Marquess that the period of extension should not be too long, but I think it can hardly be contended that three years is too long an extension. I regret very much that I am not able to accept the noble Marquess's suggestions, but he must remember that we have at his request reduced the period from six years to three, so that we have gone a long way to meet his views.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I fully recognise that a substantial concession has been made. I should have preferred two years, but as the noble Earl is unable to see his way to granting that I have nothing further to say.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: I beg to move to amend Clause 1 so as to provide that the Act of 1904 shall continue in force until December 31st, 1909, instead of 1912.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 7, to leave out the word 'twelve' and to insert the word 'nine.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining Clause agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. (No. 95.)

MERCHANT SHIPPING (ALIENS) BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I am glad to say, when again introducing this Bill, that though it has been defeated in this House on previous occasions I now find that the principle of one of the two most important clauses has been accepted by the present Government. The President of the Board of Trade has agreed that pilotage certificates for British waters should not be granted to aliens, and providing the Law Officers are of opinion that there is no constitutional difficulty, he has expressed his willingness to accept an Amendment to the Merchant Shipping Bill which will put an end to the practice.

I am now asking your Lordships not to be satisfied with half measures but to ensure that, in addition, British ships shall be commanded and officered by British subjects and British subjects only. This, according to my view, is much the most important proposal contained in the Bill. Of course, I cordially approve of pilotage certificates being confined to Britishers. That is provided for in this Bill. But, all the same, we have always to remember that, though we can prevent the granting of pilotage certificates to aliens, we cannot possibly prevent them from securing British charts or from familiarising themselves with the navigation of British waters through practical experience in command of their ships. Were it not for compulsory pilotage regulations merchant vessels would, in practically all cases, be navigated by their own officers, just as is the case in the Royal Navy.

Then, in a numerical sense, the grievance of our captains and officers of the Merchant Service—looking at it from their aspect at the moment—is a much more serious one. According to the latest Returns obtainable we find that there are 511 aliens acting either as captains or officers of British merchant vessels whilst, in British fishing vessels, there are forty-eight alien skippers, and thirty first or second hands. Then, my Lords, we have always to remember that there are many aliens aspiring to such positions, the most likely of these being of course the petty officers of our ships and the apprentices. There are 2,991 alien petty officers in our merchant service and, even though their number is small as yet, the practice of employing alien apprentices on our merchant ships is growing, and it is almost a certainty that when the term of their apprenticeship expires, these apprentices will seek to obtain British Board of Trade certificates.

Then, again, we find that whilst there are 176,975 British seamen, showing an increase of 455 on the previous year, still 39,832 of our sailors are aliens, and this at a time when we hear of so much distress through our own countrymen being out of work. It is true that the number of foreigners shows a decrease of 564 on the previous year. Though this is a decrease it is so small that it must give us very little satisfaction, especially as, were it to continue at the same rate, it would require over seventy years to eliminate the foreign element. Again, lascars are figuring more and more in connection with the manning of our ships, their number having increased by 1,661 in the previous year. They are now in number 42,682. That lascars should be treated as British subjects is, I think, unquestionable, although personally I should very much prefer to see our own countrymen nearer home increasing to the same extent in the manning of our merchant service.

Last year, when I introduced this Bill, I pointed out that the percentage of aliens in the merchant service was approximately 23 per cent. It is now 22½ per cent. But I do not hesitate to say that these percentages give nothing like an adequate conception of the serious state of affairs which exists. We have to realise that all our leading shipowning companies already employ British subjects only, with the result that it leaves so many the less British subjects for our merchant tramps (which represent over 80 per cent. of the merchant service) and for our foreign-going sailing-ships. We have it from official figures that the percentage of aliens on foreign-going sailing-ships is over 50 per cent., and if any one will analyse the lists of the crews of our merchant "tramps," as they are called, I think he will form the same estimate as I do, that at least one-half of their crews are, on the average, foreigners.

The evil is of such great magnitude that it must be dealt with in a very careful and judicious manner. I am not revolutionary in my ideas, and I have certainly no desire to unfairly hamper the British shipowner. He has no greater well-wisher than myself, and I think I have shown this on more than one occasion in this House. Accordingly, I am bringing forward this measure which I would strongly urge your Lordships to accept, as it will mean the first start towards effecting reforms which are bound to come sooner or later. It will be the acceptance by the Legislature of a great principle, and it will inflict no hardship. When I say the acceptance of a great principle, I should say that the last Government most decidedly adopted the principle of the Bill in their agreements with the Cunard Line, the American Combine, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and others. In these they stipulated for British captains and officers. Therefore, your Lordships will appreciate the fact that the principles of my Bill have been approved of, in one case by the late Government, and, in the other, by the present Government. On the ground of consistency alone I cannot see why either side should now oppose the Bill.

I have given your Lordships some statistics, and with your permission I propose to give a few reasons why this Bill should be allowed to pass. The personal side of the grievance I put as a comparatively minor matter, though I cannot see why 511 British captains and officers should be supplanted in their own sphere by aliens, especially when it is a fact that all the other leading maritime

Powers confine the commanding and officering of their ships to their own subjects. I have previously informed your Lordships of cases of the sale of large companies to foreign flags when their British captains, officers, and engineers received short shrift, and had to give way to subjects born under the new flag flown by the vessels. It is a healthy sign that we see so much attention being given, and so many efforts being made now-a-days, to improving the manning of our ships. We see new training establishments mooted or promoted, but it is the height of absurdity to endeavour to promote the supply of British boy-sailors, and to instil into them a proper spirit of patriotism and pride in their country, when, quite possibly, these boys when they go to sea will find themselves under the authority of Dutchmen, Dagos, or other aliens.

What wonder, then, that respectable young Britishers become rapidly disgusted and throw the sea up at the first available opportunity? These British boy sailors are wanted not in our liners, but in the forecastles of our merchant tramps and sailing ships where the alien captains and officers figure. As a sample of the scandalous state of affairs which prevails, I will read from a letter which I have received from an officer in the merchant service belonging to North Shields. He writes—

"I joined the S.S. '————' of Newcastle as second officer and, after sailing, was surprised to find that I was the only Britisher on deck. The master was a Dane, the mate a Norwegian, and I am sorry to say I had to leave after a short voyage, for I found I was not there as an officer but to take my coat off and knock the bo's'n round. Such treatment I never had from a British shipmaster. Such a thing as keeping the bridge—except at night-time—was out of the question, and by all accounts she has a second officer every voyage, sometimes two. As far as I could see, when they got a young British officer there, they would do their utmost to make him commit himself. I was sorry to see before leaving London that all the new crew were from the Scandinavian Home."

I will now read an extract from a letter from a captain of a steamer regarding a company which he has lately left—

"At the time of my leaving, the company owned fifteen steamers, of which five were commanded by Englishmen properly certificated, and the rest by uncertificated foreigners, mostly Greeks and Italians. There were only two English chief officers in the service, and no English second officers. The engine-room department was, if anything, in a worse condition, as there were only five certificated chiefs, and no certificated second or third. In the vessel I commanded, my chief and second officers were both uncertificated Greeks, spoke no English, knew nothing about navigation, and, in fact, possessed neither navigational instruments nor books. The chief officer could not even speak sufficient Arabic to run the crew, so that I had to run the show practically single-handed. I am thankful to say that they kept thoroughly awake when on the bridge, but their ideas about the rule of the road was very elementary. My case was by no means exceptional. There are several officers in the company who can neither read nor write their own language, let alone English. A chief officer's log is a thing fearful and wonderful to behold."

I think your Lordships will take it that this displays an astounding state of affairs. I should inform you that it applies to a company whose vessels very rarely, if ever, come to England. If they did come to England they would, at least, be required to carry a Board of Trade certificated captain and chief officer, but even then they might be aliens.

In passing, as showing the grave perils of alien seamen, I would remind your Lordships of the extract that I read to the House earlier in the session from the Report of the Court which investigated the wreck of the "Ordovician." They called attention to the fact that there had been three inquiries into wrecks at that port within a month, in which the deck hands had been chiefly foreign seamen with no knowledge of the English language; and commenting on the loss of the "Bavaria," where many lives were sacrificed, they said that the only deck hands who gave evidence were Russians who had no knowledge of English, and who endeavoured to cast an imputation on the reputation of the captain, who had lost his life in gallantly endeavouring to save his vessel. Though on previous occasions on which I have brought forward this measure it has been dragged within the realms of the fiscal controversy, it is, I think, a most unjustifiable form of opposition. You cannot compare national safety with changes in the fiscal policy. It is high time that this country began to realise the national character of our merchant service.

The other day in this House the noble Earl, the Under-Secretary of State for War, very justly eulogised the splendid deeds of our Army beyond the shores of these Islands. Would those deeds have been performed but for the aid of our merchant ships? What use is our Army at the present moment without our merchant navy? I think, my Lords, you will agree with me when I say that our merchant navy is the first and most important of our auxiliary services. Our Royal Navy is indispensable, but why is it indispensable? Mainly because it is required to police the seas and guard the vast ocean-going trade of the Empire. Without our merchant fleet, we should be starving in a few weeks time, or depending for food on foreign vessels.

I am astonished at the statements of the President of the Board of Trade, who in a recent speech in another place said that, in the opinion of the Admiralty, there was no grave danger in the fact of so many foreigners being in the mercantile marine. I would ask the Admiralty how they reconcile their present opinions, as expressed by Mr. Lloyd-George, with the following paragraph in the report of the Steamship Subsidies Committee—

> "The British Admiralty point out that it is apparent that if this question of nationality is not recognised in time, British vessels, whenever occasion for their use by the Admiralty arises, will be extensively manned by foreigners, who would have to be largely, if not entirely, replaced by British subjects on the outbreak of war."

How are the Admiralty going to get these British subjects except by securing them from our merchant tramp steamers and sailing-ships, and then we would be dependent for our food supplies on vessels manned wholly by foreigners? In referring to the Steamship Subsidies Committee I should state that this Committee also was quite in favour of the principle of my Bill. I quote the following paragraph from their Report—

> "Importance is attached to the manning of ships by national officers and crews in Germany, Russia, Italy and Japan; and the British Admiralty hold that no postal or other contract should be given unless all captains and officers are British subjects and a certain portion of the men, while British-born apprentices and boys should be carried according to the size of the ship. This is also the opinion of your Committee."

Perhaps it may be that the Admiralty now look at it merely from an Admiralty point of view, and that because they can get a sufficiency of men for the Navy the merchant service is not a matter for their particular concern. And it certainly does not seem to be of concern to anybody when it is relegated to a sub-department of another Department with an Assistant Secretary as its chief responsible official.

I should like to know where this country would have been during the South African War but for the magnificent way in which a quarter of a million of our troops were carried over the high seas by our merchant vessels, without, I think I am right in saying, the loss of a single life. I turn from the extraordinary view of the Admiralty to the following declaration of an ex-President of the Board of Trade who, unfortunately, has not lived to take his place in this House as we had all hoped. This is what the late Lord Ritchie, speaking officially as head of the Board of Trade, said in another place—

> "Take for instance the question of war—the question of a war where the naval reserves were called out—that would be to deplete British ships of British seamen, and instead of being partially manned by foreigners they would, under existing circumstances, be altogether manned by foreigners. That, I think, is matter for very great regret, and if any suggestion can be made to remedy that state of things, or to endeavour to remedy that state of things, which the whole House regrets, then the House would do wrong not to consider any suggestions that might be made."

There are more aliens in the merchant service now than when Lord Ritchie made this startling statement, and still we treat the situation with almost criminal apathy. Supposing some of these ships, it might be a good many of them, were bound to this country with, for instance, cargoes of grain to keep life in the bodies of our countrymen. Their crews would be composed wholly of aliens, and in many cases aliens would be in charge of the vessels. Can we view the position with equanimity?

A Member of your Lordships' House has lately written to the Press and commented on the serious mutiny which happened on a British vessel manned by a Chinese crew. In case of war, with aliens on the bridge and aliens in the forecastle, there would be no necessity for mutiny. Their paths would be diverted from this country, and their food stuffs would serve to feed our enemies. Even where the ships are actually commanded and officered by Britishers, an overwhelming preponderance of aliens amongst their crews would create a situation ripe for wholesale mutiny and insubordination. Another point in connection with the national character of the merchant service is to be advanced by the recent agitation on the subject of promoting more efficient inter-signalling between vessels of the Royal Navy and the merchant service. It has come to be clearly recognised that if things are allowed to go on as in the past this want of efficient inter-signalling might bring about defeats or disasters in time of war. I would ask —as did the Merchant Service Guild— whether this efficient signalling is to be expected in those cases where merchant vessels are commanded and officered by aliens, apart altogether from the crews themselves?

As illustrating how positively dangerous it is that we should go on allowing aliens to command and officer our ships, I would refer your Lordships to the Board of Trade notice to the masters of British ships, who are informed that, in the event of relations becoming strained between this country and any Naval Power, an examination service will come into force at such ports in the United Kingdom and His Majesty's possessions abroad as are defended by means of mines or batteries, and that when this examination is put into force masters will receive confidential notice of the ports at which it is established. I believe that on at least two occasions the Merchant Service Guild have brought this notice before the Admiralty and inquired how they are to prevent confidential reports of the kind getting into the hands of alien captains of our ships. They do not appear to have had any satisfactory reply, and I would urge upon your Lordships whether, in permitting these aliens to continue in such positions, we are not making a whip for our own backs in time of war.

That the merchant service is something more than a private industry was clearly evidenced by the action of the Government when the advent of the American combine promised disaster to at least one of the leading lines of the country. At that time I placed a Question on the Notice Paper of this House asking whether the Government proposed to do anything to save the situation. Ultimately the Government advanced to the Cunard Line the sum of about 2½ millions of money at 2¾ per cent. to enable them to build two fast steamers which would eclipse anything owned by the Combine, and in addition they are given a subsidy, under certain conditions, of £150,000 per annum. I would ask whether this is not a remarkable testimony of the national importance of our merchant ships?

I notice that I have been subjected to a little criticism for commenting in the Memorandum of the Bill upon the advent of the American combine. I may say that the reason for that comment is simply this, that having received such gratifying support when the Bill was last introduced I have adhered to its Memorandum. At the time of the American combine it seemed almost certain that there would be a rush of young Americans to serve in the vessels, and as in their Agreement with the British Government the ships were required to carry British captains and officers it was obvious that these young American cousins of ours would endeavour to obtain British Board of Trade certificates. Though the American combine seems to be in very low water—with the exception, perhaps, of one section of it, the White Star Line—there will be some great changes next year, and my own opinion is that the competition of the American combine is still to be greatly feared. This is especially so when we realise the persistency with which the Americans are pressing forward their Shipping Bill, the object of which is—

> "to promote the national defence, to create a force of Naval Volunteers, to establish American Ocean Mail Lines to foreign markets, to promote commerce and to provide revenue from tonnage."

In striving to achieve this, the Americans, with commendable foresight, are ensuring that it is their own subjects who shall command and officer their ships, and as far as possible form their crews.

Then, again, I have it on the authority of the noble Marquess who was our late Foreign Minister that a British ship is British territory. Enlarging on this, I may say that the captain of a British ship, or an officer as his substitute, is an administrator of British law. We have only to turn to that voluminous publication, the Merchant Shipping Act, to see what his responsibilities are in this way. I think any system at sea which allows an alien to administer British law cannot be too strongly condemned. As an interesting illustration of what I mean I might mention that, only quite lately, a captain of a British sailing ship united two Pitcairn Islanders in the bonds of matrimony, even although the official log books issued by the Board of Trade state that such a ceremony is not to be performed on board ship. I am very pleased indeed to hear that, on the legality of the marriage being questioned, the Law Officers of the Crown have declared the ceremony to have been a perfectly legal one. I should like to know from the Law Officers whether there would have been the same satisfactory conclusion had the gentleman in command of the ship been an alien?

On the last occasion when I introduced this Bill I was criticised by the noble and learned Earl who then sat on the Woolsack. The point which the noble Earl chiefly criticised was the statement in the Memorandum that—

> "Under the present system British registered ships my be, and are, owned, commanded, and manned entirely by foreigners."

I was told that this was a very misleading statement, but I am sorry to say that I am compelled to adhere to that statement. As the noble Earl is well aware, subterfuge can be brought to bear, and the law, often enough, is very easily evaded. Though the Merchant Shipping Act stipulates that British ships must have British ownership, there are ways and means of easily getting out of this difficulty.

Let us return for a moment to the American shipping combine. What is that but a vast concern of steamers flying the British flag and purchased by American money? It is hardly necessary to go beyond this, but I will just refer for the moment to the views of one of the largest shipowners of this country, Sir Alfred Jones. In giving evidence before the Royal Commission on food supplies, Sir Alfred Jones said that the British flag is a mere phrase so far as the beneficial ownership of the property of the ship is concerned. I am informed by the Merchant Service Guild that there are plenty of vessels, for instance, on the coast of China which are Chinese owned, but flying the British flag.

As a sample of the fatuous policy which our country often enough pursues, I would refer to the Turco-Greek and Spanish-American wars, where the merchant vessels of these countries made transfers of ownership and hoisted the British flag. They thus secured the protection of the British nation and were enabled to carry on their business which otherwise would in all probability have accrued to British shipowners. What I contended in the Memorandum of my Bill has really been admitted by the present Government, for, in the new Merchant Shipping Bill, I find a clause inserted whereby, when a doubt exists as to the title of any ship registered as a British ship to be so registered, a thorough inquiry can be made, and, if satisfactory evidence that the title of the ship to be registered is not given she shall be subject to forfeiture.

In the merchant service of this Empire we have a great and terrible responsibility to bear. We are apt to exult too much over Great Britain's supremacy on the seas, but we do not seem to realise how day by day we are faced by greater and greater difficulties in maintaining that supremacy. I am not posing as a pessimist, for I yield to nobody in the pride I have in our merchant service and our merchant seamen. Yet we have only to look around to see the unflagging energy and enthusiasm of foreign maritime Powers in promoting and nurturing their maritime trades, and though, of course, we are still far in the van, we must clearly understand that these foreign Powers are making wonderful progress.

Foreign shipowners do not complain, nor does it hamper them, that the commanding and officering of their ships should be vested in their own countrymen. I am absolutely convinced that their success is due to the loyalty and patriotism which pervade them. I am sorry to have detained your Lordships so long, but I hope that you will voice what is undoubtedly the opinion of the country and pass this measure. The passing of this Bill will tend to encourage that spirit of patriotism and loyalty which I am proud to say, in spite of the neglect with which they are treated, still exists so strongly amongst the British captains, officers, and seamen of our merchant service.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: My Lords, I have heard many reasons in favour of this Bill and only one against it, and that is that it is contrary to the Act of 1854. Now the men who drafted that Act knew all about small wooden sailing-ships. But steam was a novelty to them. Iron was coming in, but no ships had then been built of steel. There were no ocean cables. The management of all the commerce of the world has been revolutionised by improved telegraphic communications. Since 1854 the boy has become a man and his clothes no longer fit him; it is better to amend such an Act piece-meal than not at all. Last year I asked this House to vote for the Second Reading of a Bill of which this is a copy. I also said that it would require to be amended in Committee. I do not think that any ship carrying the British flag should be allowed to leave any harbour in Great Britain unless both the captain and second in command are British subjects. I wish to get rid of that mischievous anomaly of its being possible that ships with nothing British about them except the flag, should nominally be owned by British subjects, and commanded by foreigners, although in most cases they put no money into British pockets.

I have held these opinions for many years. In 1864, during the American Civil War, I had to board all ships with British colours that anchored off the Rio Grande, the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. I well recollect the captain of the only British-built merchant ship at that anchorage saying to me—

> "I believe that I am the only lime-juicer of the whole lot,"

there being present some twenty or thirty ships built, commanded, manned, and owned by Americans with nothing British about them except the flag. The people on board these ships were called Semmes's Englishmen, and were so named after the Captain of the Alabama. These vessels claimed the protection of British men-of-war, gave trouble to British Consuls, and put no money into British pockets, with the exception of some trifling fees for changing their flag. Even schooners with fruit from New Orleans flew the British flag. I believe that there is nothing in our laws to prevent such a state of things recurring. I have been told that there are at present only a few British merchant ships commanded by foreigners. Even if this is the case, there is nothing in our laws to prevent an increase of the mischief that I have referred to.

Now, our Government has given notice that confidential information about defended harbours will be given to captains of British merchant ships in time of war, or strained relations with a foreign Power. If a British subject was to divulge such secrets to an enemy he could be tried for high treason or for aiding and abetting the King's enemies, and could be hanged or shot. We could not, however, punish a neutral for such an offence without getting into trouble with his fellow countrymen. If, however, the foreign captain belonged to a belligerent nation, he would only have been acting loyally towards his own countrymen, and we could scarcely do more than retain him as a prisoner of war, and curse ourselves for our own folly in giving him such information. Recollect that when the British ship "Cheltenham" was sunk by the Russians in defiance of every principle of international law, its foreign crew cheered this insult to the British flag.

I am in agreement with all the clauses in this Bill except section (a) of Clause 2, which I think requires amending so as to admit of foreigners being occasionally shipped at foreign ports, and at some of the smaller colonial harbours, so as to fill up vacancies caused by sickness or death. For instance, at any of the anchorages between Sierra Leone and the Cape of Good Hope it would be very unwise to expect to find British officers awaiting employment. It would be unfair to the owners to keep their ships in harbour, and a cruelty to the men on board if they were kept waiting for a long time in such unhealthy places for such a reason. I had intended saying something on the question of foreign pilots, but as my noble friend says the Government have agreed to deal with the matter, I shall defer my remarks until some future period of the session. I hope that your Lordships will give this Bill a Second Reading and afterwards amend it in Committee.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, the Bill which my noble friend has brought forward for Second Reading today has been before this House for the last seven years. The late Government invariably opposed the Bill, and it is the intention of the present Government to take the same course. The Memorandum which the noble Lord has attached to this Bill is the same as that which has been issued with previous Bills, except in one particular. In his previous statements the noble Lord has always made the assertion that the percentage of aliens on British ships was increasing. I see that that statement is not made this year. I suppose it has been omitted because there has been a slight decrease in the number of foreigners employed in our merchant service. The noble Lord also told us that the object of the Bill was to prevent aliens getting full control of British ships, but this would not be carried out by the Bill in its present form. Some Amendment of Section 1 of the Merchant Shipping Act would be necessary.

The noble Lord asserted that the principle of the Bill had been recognised by the Subsidies Committee, but, on looking the passage up, I find it is only recognised in a very minor way, and only in regard to actual subsidised vessels. The noble Lord also referred to the Cunard subsidies. That is quite a different thing. It is an Admiralty contract, so that in time of war the country can call on these vessels for use in war or for the carrying of mails. Another statement which the noble Lord made was that all maritime Powers restrict the commanding and officering of their ships to their own subjects.

LORD MUSKERRY: I said the leading maritime Powers.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: Last year the noble Lord said that no foreign captains or officers could be employed on German ships according to the law of that country, and he questioned the accuracy of the statement which was made to the contrary by the noble Lord who represented the Board of Trade. This year the President of the Board of Trade has been in communication with His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, and he finds that foreign officers hold certificates and are employed in the German merchant service to the number of about 2 per cent.; and in this country, of the total number of successful candidates for certificates, only 1·6 have been foreigners. Again, I do not think the statement of the noble Lord in charge of the Bill as to a large influx of foreigners into the British merchant service is borne out by the facts. From 1897 to 1905 the total number of successful candidates for masters', mates', and engineers' certificates was 42,000. Of this number only 776 were foreigners.

LORD MUSKERRY: I do not think it is fair to take in engineers. My Bill does not deal with engineers.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: I think the noble Lord treats engineers very badly. He only legislates for masters and mates. In 1897 the number of certificates taken out by foreigners was 130. In 1905 the number of foreign officers who got English certificates had fallen to 77. According to the census returns, in the Report of the Registrar-General, of the 32,000 foreigners serving in the British mercantile service in 1901, 5,000 were Germans, 2,000 Russians, and 600 French. I really think my noble friend exaggerates the danger in case of war. I cannot help thinking that the noble Lord was ill-advised in introducing his Bill at a moment when His Majesty's Government have a very comprehensive measure on merchant shipping before the other House. It seems to me that he could have met his purpose by bringing forward Amendments to the Government's Bill when it came to your Lordships' House. I would further point out that if the Bill now before your Lordships passed this House it would have very little chance of getting through the other House. I must ask your Lordships, for the reasons I have given, to refuse to grant the Bill a Second Reading, and I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' in order to insert these words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

LORD HENEAGE: The noble Earl has made no reference to the question of foreign pilots, which, in my opinion, is the most important part of the Bill.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: That question is being dealt with by the Government, and the noble Lord will see the result when the Merchant Shipping Bill comes up to this House.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, I do not think my noble friend behind me need regret having again introduced this measure into your Lordships' House, because he has been enabled to deliver a speech in which he has called attention to what is, after all, a matter of very grave national importance, and one which I think cannot be too often brought to public notice. But, having regard to the fact pointed out by the noble Earl opposite at the close of his remarks that a Government Bill is pending in another place, I think this is scarcely an opportune moment to press my noble friend's Bill forward, and I agree that my noble friend would be well advised to rest satisfied with the discussion that he has raised and the answer he has elicited from the Government, and not to press his Bill at the present moment.

I may remind him that the noble Lord opposite has suggested a method by which he may get still further discussion of the important points raised in this Bill—namely, by producing Amendments to the Government's Bill when it reaches us from another place. No doubt my noble friend, who is a very experienced Parliamentary hand, will avail himself of those opportunities, and at a later date we shall be able to discuss in detail, at the instance of my noble friend, these various points. In mentioning the Bill pending in another place my noble friend in charge of the measure now before your Lordships' House told us—and I understood that the noble Earl opposite confirmed this—that the President of the Board of Trade had promised to legislate on the question of foreign pilots.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: I stated that the President of the Board of Trade is dealing with the question of pilots. I think that there will probably be some mention of it in the Government's Bill when it reaches this House.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I understand that the Government are favourably considering the question. The subject is, I admit, a difficult one, but if the Bill in another place reaches us with a clause in it providing that pilotage certificates should be confined to British subjects, I assure the noble Lord opposite that we on our part will give it careful and favourable attention. I do not deny that there is a great deal to be said on both sides. I received a deputation, when I occupied the office of President of the Board of Trade, from the pilots of this country, who placed their case before me with great fulness and great moderation, and I am bound to say they made a considerable impression on my mind. It was not that the grievance was a very large one in extent—that is to say, there are not a very great number of individuals who are legitimately aggrieved by the fact that foreigners receive pilotage certificates; but it is true that a certain number are aggrieved and deserve the sympathy of your Lordships' House.

It makes a considerable difference to the pilots on the Humber and on the Thames that foreigners should hold these certificates. No doubt that would not be a conclusive reason for legislation; but it is an important and significant fact that, although we grant such facilities to foreigners, in most cases there are no reciprocal advantages of this kind granted to Britishers by the foreign countries whose subjects enjoy such hospitality at our hands. I do not know that the party opposite and noble Lords opposite have shown themselves very favourable to the principle of retaliation and reciprocity, but, apparently, in this case they are inclined to make an exception, and I can assure them that when their clause appears we shall consider it favourably.

The more important part of my noble friend's Bill undoubtedly is that which deals with certificates of masters and officers in the merchant service. I was glad to hear from the noble Earl opposite that an improvement is taking place in regard to foreigners holding masters' and officers' certificates and that there are now fewer officers and masters of foreign birth in our merchant service than there were formerly. That is a change at which I think we will all rejoice. The enormous number of foreigners in our merchant service is a formidable fact. It may be inevitable. I do not desire, at the present moment, to pronounce any opinion upon it, but it is a formidable fact; and if it were true that the crews as well as the officers were increasingly of foreign birth, and that year by year fewer British subjects became seamen, then the fact would be so formidable as to call for a remedy from Parliament.

It is a matter of vital importance to this country that we should have a sufficient number of our population following the profession of the sea, in order that we might have what is necessary to fall back upon in order to replace the losses which would undoubtedly incur in time of war in His Majesty's Navy. Therefore it is of the greatest possible importance that the number of those who follow the calling of the sea should be kept at a high proportion, and at an increased proportion, if that be possible. Having been at the Board of Trade, I know that the matter is not so simple as all that. We have to consider, on the other hand, the interests of the trade of this country, and no violent measure which would hamper trade could, in my humble judgment, be properly considered and agreed to by your Lordships.

Though it is undoubtedly of vital importance that the seafaring population of this country should be maintained, yet it is also of vital importance that the trade of the country should be maintained, and we have to steer our way carefully between the two extremes of sacrificing the seafaring population and sacrificing the interests of trade. I hope His Majesty's Government are seised of all these difficulties, and that when the Merchant Shipping Bill reaches us from another place, and my noble friend produces the Amendments which he has been invited by the noble Earl opposite to move, His Majesty's Government will be in a position to guide aright the wisdom of Parliament, and that, as a result, the two political Parties in your Lordships' House may produce legislation which will be for the benefit of the country at large.

LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, I should like to know exactly how the question of foreign pilots stands. I was under the impression that the President of the Board of Trade had almost given a definite pledge that the question should be dealt with in the Bill. So far as I understand now, it is only under consideration, and that makes a considerable difference. This question is a most important one for us on the Humber. The granting of pilotage licences to foreigners, enables foreigners to learn our waters, and prevents numbers of our own men from becoming efficient pilots.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Lord TWEEDMOUTH): My Lords, the question before your Lordships' House does not, in the first instance, touch the Department which I represent to any great extent. I think that there is common agreement in all parts of the House that it is desirable that our mercantile marine should be manned, as far as possible, by men of our own country. That is an opinion we can all hold, but we also have to consider the interests of the shipping trade, and it does seem to me that it would be a very strong measure indeed, in a Bill of this kind, to place restrictions on the shipping trade in regard to the employment of foreigners on board British ships. You cannot simply say, in this matter, that the practice of employing foreigners, whether as officers or as seamen, on board British merchant ships must stop; but it is quite clear that, so far as we can justifiably encourage the employment of British subjects, we should do so.

What I really rose to say was this. that so far as the Navy is concerned the noble Lord need be under no apprehension that there is any danger of a shortage in the supply for the Naval Reserve. At the present moment, we, at the Admiralty, are not troubled by the want of desire on the part of the mercantile marine to enter the Naval Reserve; there is, as a matter of fact, an overplus of candidates. So much so, that when my noble friend Lord Cawdor was First Lord the Admiralty were obliged to suspend the entry of candidates for the Naval Reserve, otherwise we should have more men than we want. I may also say that we have greatly increased the Fleet Reserve, which is made up of men who have been trained in the Navy itself.

I was glad to hear the noble Marquess opposite advise the noble Lord in charge of this Bill not to press it to a division. I think that the legitimate encouragement that may be given to British subjects to enter the mercantile marine can be abundantly provided for in the Bill which has been introduced by the President of the Board of Trade in the other House. The noble Lord referred to the question of special regulations with regard to pilotage. I am afraid I cannot go further than my noble friend Lord Granard did in that matter, but I can say that the subject is one of importance, and one which we are considering. We shall be ready to listen to any suggestions that may be made on that particular subject from either side of the House. I hope the Bill will not be pressed.

Lord MUSKERRY: My Lords, the noble Earl who replied on behalf of His Majesty's Government simply told me that it is their intention to oppose the Second Reading of this Bill, but he has given no reasons why that action is taken beyond the vague statement that they will listen to any Amendments that I may bring forward to their Merchant Shipping Bill when it reaches your Lordships' House. Am I to understand from His Majesty's Government that they will give favourable consideration to Amendments to carry out what is embodied in this Bill? This is not a commercial matter; it is a matter of national safety; and I have had absolutely no reasons given for the opposition to the Bill. As to what the First Lord said about the number of the Royal Naval Reserve, that is exactly what I contended in my speech —namely, that in time of war all these men would be called into the Navy and would leave so many the less Britishers in the merchant service. If His Majesty's Government will undertake to give favourable consideration to my Amendments later on, I shall be most happy to withdraw the Bill.

A NOBLE LORD: You cannot ask that.

Lord MUSKERRY: On the advice of my noble friends near me I withdraw the Bill, but I would again point out that no reasons have been given by the Government for their opposition.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn. Then the original Motion and Bill (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

STREET BETTING BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 3ª.—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

The Earl of WEMYSS moved to omit Sub-section 2 of Clause 1, which provided that any constable might take into custody without warrant any person found committing an offence under the Bill, and might seize and detain any article liable to be forfeited under the Bill. He said that this section gave the police considerably more power than they had at present. He strongly objected to power being given to constables under this Bill to take people into custody without a warrant. This provision constituted a great change in the law, and he did not think that at the present time, when the whole conduct of the Police was being referred to a Royal Commission, it would be wise to give this power. Similar power had been asked for in private Bills and the Committees, after full consideration, had thrown out the provision giving this power. He asked their Lordships, in their capacity as legislators, to take the same course as that adopted by the Committees.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord DAVEY opposed the Amendment on the ground that its effect would be seriously to impair the usefulness of the Bill. If this Bill was to be effective the police must have power to immediately take offenders into custody and bring them before the magistrate. If this power were refused, the police would have very little chance of finding the men afterwards.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at five minutes past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 18*th May*, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Sutton District Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

North Metropolitan Tramways Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill, read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [Lords]; Holyhead Water Bill [Lords]; Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords]; North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill, as amended, considered; to be read the third time.

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, etc.) Bill, read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill, Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill, read a second time, and committed.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill. Reported without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

South Suburban Gas Bill; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords]; Metropolitan Water Board Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Cheltenham Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

Knott End Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Cork Link Railways Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 5).

MR. ASHTON reported from the Committee on Group 5 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1).

Mr. COMPTON RICKETT reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That, to suit the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at a quarter-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 4).

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY reported from the Committee on Group 4 of Railway Bills; That, to suit the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to extend the powers and to change the name of the Maryport Harbour Company; and for other purposes." [Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Glamorgan County Council to make inquiries and surveys with a view to the utilisation of water supplies in South Wales; and for other purposes." [Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords.]]

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the Cardiff Railway Company to make a deviation of a portion of Railway No. 4, authorised by The Cardiff Railway Act, 1897, for extending the time for the purchase of certain lands and for the completion of certain railways; and for other purposes." [Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of Haslingden to construct and work tramways, and to make further provision for the improvement, local government, and health of the borough of Haslingden; and for other purposes." [Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords.]]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to transfer to the Urban District Council of Clacton the powers and property of the Commissioners appointed under the provisions of The Clacton-on-Sea Special Drainage District Act, 1880; to enable them to construct further sea defence works; and for other purposes." [Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords.]]

And, also, a Bill, intituled "An Act to confer further powers on the Barry Railway Company." [Barry Railway Bill [Lords.]]

Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords]; Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]; Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]; Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Barry Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

DOGS BILL.

Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Accrington; Aston Magna; Beyton (two); Bletchingley; Broughton in Furness; Cotheridge; Croydon; Drighlington (two); Droitwich and Dodderhill; Dudley; Horsforth; Johnston; Kidderminster (two); Lower Heyford; Martyr Worthy (two); North Kensington; Ombersley; Pedmore; Ripple; Rishton; Romsley; Ryde; St. Paul in the Blockhouse; Shanklin; Stalybridge; Stoke Poges; Stourbridge; Stourport; Swansea (four); Ventnor; Waltham; Wollaston; and Worcester; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUATION BILL.

Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table.

LANDS VALUATION (SCOTLAND) ACT (1854) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Perth, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

TUBERCULOSIS (ANIMALS) PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION BILL.

Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).

Copy presented, of Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1905 by the Hydrographer [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL GALLERY (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Report of the Director of the National Gallery of Ireland to the Board of Governors and Guardians for the year 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SINKING FUNDS.

Account presented, of the Commissioners for the reduction of the National

Debt, showing the amount received and applied in the year ended March 31st, 1906, in respect of the Old and New Sinking Funds [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 174.]

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

Copy presented, of Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India during the year 1904–5, Forty-first Number [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 175.]

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to a proposed Colonial Conference in 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Account presented, of the Receipt and Expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act from January 1st to December 31st, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 176.]

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill, and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158b]; referred to the Committee on the Bill.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Abolition of Coal Duty—Reduction of Customs Staff.

MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that in the year 1900, and subsequently, a number of the clerks of the Second Division attached to the Customs Department, who were available for employment in other departments as required by the exigencies of the public service, were permanently established in the Customs as port clerks; and if he can state, in view of the forthcoming remission of the coal tax, and in the event of further remissions of Customs duties, how the redundant clerks can be disposed of under the revised conditions of service.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) It is true that in the year 1900 and subsequently a number of Second Division clerks became port clerks on the permanent Customs establishment. The Board are not yet in a position to state how the reductions of staff which would follow on the abolition of the Coal Duty could best be effected, but they do not anticipate that any difficulties will arise. It would be premature to discuss the results of any further changes in Customs duties.

South African Customs Conference.

MR. WEDGWOOD BENN (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now publish the decisions arrived at by the South African Customs Conference.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Churchill.*) The Convention provisionally agreed to will be laid on the Table, and copies will be available on May 25th.

Stamping of Voluntary School Trust Deeds.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will state on what grounds the trustees of voluntary schools have been required to affix a half-crown stamp to the copies of their trust deeds which the Board of Education have demanded to be submitted to them; and whether the Board propose to reimburse the trustees for the expense thus incurred.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The affixing of the stamps has not been required by the Board of Education. The necessity of so doing arises only in those cases where the trustees desire to send copies of their trust deeds, in lieu of the originals, in response to the circular issued by the Board of Education for procuring the Return ordered by the House of Commons on February 23rd last. For the convenience of Trustees the Board intimated their readiness to accept copies of trust deeds, instead of originals, if accompanied by a statutory declaration of their authenticity made before a commissioner for oaths. Such a declaration requires a half-crown stamp, under The Stamp Act, 1891. In cases in which the trustees have preferred not to forward the original deeds the expense of making the necessary declaration must be borne by them. The Board have no funds out of which they can defray the cost.

Casuals and Oakum Picking.

Mr. TILLETT (Norwich): To ask the President of the Local Government Board why inmates of casual wards in workhouses have to pick four pounds of oakum per day, whilst the quantity of oakum picked by an inmate of His Majesty's prisons does not exceed three pounds per diem; and whether he proposes to continue to require inmates of casual wards to pick the quantity prescribed.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Local Government Board caused inquiries to be made as to this matter some years ago. Information on the subject will be found at page xci. of the 18th Annual Report of the Board, but it may be stated shortly that the result of the inquiries was to show that, although the maximum amount of the task prescribed for casual paupers exceeds that for prisoners, yet in practice the conditions are so different that the task for casuals is far easier than for prisoners. The whole question of the treatment of the casual poor is now under my consideration in connection with the Report of the Departmental Committee on Vagrancy.

Sale of the Dennehy Estate.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that negotiations for the sale of the Dennehy estate at Glencar, county Kerry, were opened more than a year ago, but that no progress has been made for several months, although the landlord has expressed his willingness to sell, and the tenants their willingness to purchase; and whether the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners will intervene with a view to completing the sale of the estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings in respect of the sale of this estate are pending before them, and they have no knowledge of the negotiations which may be proceeding between the landlord and tenants. Neither party has approached the Commissioners on the subject. The Congested Districts Board made an offer for the purchase of the estate last year, but their offer was not accepted, and they declined to increase it.

Irish Sea Fisheries.

Mr. BOLAND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received the resolution of the Cahirciveen District Council with reference to the improvement of the administration of sea fisheries and the institution of a Government brand for mackerel and herrings; and whether he will convey this representation from an important sea fisheries district to the Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the department.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have received the resolution referred to. I scarcely think that a technical detail of this kind comes within the scope of the reference to the Committee which has been appointed to inquire into the working of the Department.

Payment to Relatives of Pensions of Inmates of Irish Lunatic Asylums.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether His Excellency has received from the committee of management of the Belfast District Lunatic Asylum a memorial showing that this committee from time to time receive applications from dependent relatives who are inmates of the asylum for the pension money to be paid to them for their support; if he can explain why no acknowledgment of the memorial has been received; and whether, in view of the desire of district lunatic asylum committees in Ireland to grant to dependent relatives the pension of inmates where extreme hardship and poverty are known to exist, he will consider the advisability of withdrawlng the circular dated April 29th, 1901 (No. 7,227), which prevents them from so doing.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The memorial was received by the Irish Government on the 15th February last, and its receipt was duly acknowledged on the following day. There is no power under the existing law to comply with the desire of the District Lunatic Asylum Committee. The withdrawal of the circular dated April 29th, 1901, would not alter the case, as this circular merely sets forth the provisions of the law dealing with the matter, viz., The Superannuation Act, 1887, section 7, sub-section (2).

The Imperial Yeomanry.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary of State for War what has been the cost of the Imperial Yeomanry for each year since the South African war, the establishment of officers and men, the numbers actually enrolled, and the numbers absent from training on the date of inspection.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*)—

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

Cost for each year since the South African War.

	£
1903–4 - - -	525,000
1904–5 - - -	536,000
1905–6 - - -	497,000

State at the dates of the Annual Inspections.

Establishment.†

	Permanent staff.			Yeomanry.			Permanent staff and Yeomanry.		
	Officers.	Sergeants.	Total.	Officers.	Yeomen.	Total.	Officers.	N.C.O.'s and men.	Total.
1903	59	295	354	1,566	33,276	34,842	1,625	33,571	35,196
1904	59	295	354	1,564	26,196	27,760	1,623	26,491	28,114
1905	58	290	348	1,538	25,752	27,290	1,596	26,042	27,638

Numbers actually enrolled at dates of Inspections.

	Permanent staff.			Yeomanry.			Permanent staff and Yeomanry.		
	Officers.	Sergeants.	Total.	Officers.	Yeomen.	Total.	Officers.	N.C.O.'s and men.	Total.
1903	57	284	341	1,180	24,851	26,031	1,237	25,135	26,372
1904	57	289	346	1,232	25,810	27,042	1,289	26,099	27,388
1905	58	288	346	1,240	23,755	24,995	1,298	24,043	25,341

Absent from Training (dates of Inspections).

	Permanent staff.			Yeomanry.			Permanent staff and Yeomanry.		
	Officers.	Sergeants.	Total.	Officers.	Yeomen.	Total.	Officers.	N.C.O.'s and men	Total.
1903	—	1	1	134	2,458	2,592	134	2,459	2,593
1904	1	—	1	160	2,595	2,755	161	2,595	2,756
1905	2	—	2	171	2,132	2,303	173	2,132	2,305

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† The Establishments for 1903 and 1904 include that of one regiment which has not been formed.

Royal Artillery.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the Coast Defence Companies of the Royal Garrison Artillery will at a comparatively early date be divided from the Heavy, Siege Train, and Mountain Batteries, these three being joined to the Royal Field Artillery, the Coast Defence Companies, being either formed into a separate body or amalgamated with the Royal Marine Artillery; whether the subalterns of the Coast Defence Companies may have to serve equally by land or sea, and, if so, will such officers be allowed to transfer to the Royal Field Artillery without loss of seniority; whether, in view of the system now in force by which preference of choice for the Royal Field Artillery is given to those cadets who obtain the highest marks in riding, horsemastership, and field artillery drills, he will say what steps he proposes to take to maintain the standard of efficiency of the cadets recommended for first commissions in the Royal Artillery, seeing that the system in force is likely to encourage them to confine their energies almost solely to the three subjects abovementioned instead of their working at all the subjects in the general list; and whether he proposes to adopt a similar system of selection in the case of the Royal Engineers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The reply to the first part of the Question is in the negative. As regards the selection for the Field Artillery, as the cadets must make qualifying marks on every subject, not only each term but at the final examination, they must necessarily work at all the subjects. As regards the Engineers, there is no intention of changing the present system, which works quite satisfactorily.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Workmen's Compensation Bill: — Mr. Compton Rickett; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Menzies.

Report to lie upon the Table.

TOWN TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. MCKILLOP (Armagh, S.) said he regretted that the fortunes of the Ballot were so unkind to this Bill that he was about to submit to the judgment of the House as to place it in his hands. It was a measure of so much importance to the people of Ireland, to the progress of the cities and towns of Ireland, that it deserved the favour of being in charge of some of his colleagues who had taken such a very deep interest in the Bill for many years, and whose knowledge of the question would enable them to speak with far greater authority than he could. Accordingly, in moving the Second Reading, he would not trespass for any length of time upon the patience of the House, but would content himself by stating, in the briefest possible way, the general scope of the Bill, leaving to his hon. friends behind him the task of justifying the principle. The first object of the Bill was to bring to an end a system of tenure in the towns and cities of Ireland which now enabled one class to confiscate the property of another class. It was designed to encourage industry, and to ensure that the fruits of such industry would be made secure to the producer. It was meant to encourage the improvement of our towns and cities by guaranteeing to the improver that the improvements would not at the close of a short lease be grabbed by those who did nothing to produce them, and who had no moral right to them without paying compensation. Hitherto it had been the habit of the landlord to step in at regular intervals and sweep into his possession all improvements made by the tenant. That was still the law, and while it prevailed we could hardly be surprised that our cities and towns were fast falling into decay. Who would spend his means and substance in making improvements which were to become the property of another, unless he could count on being adequately compensated for them in the case of his tenancy being brought to an end? At present whatever might be the value of improvements, they were entirely swept into possession of the landlord at the expiration of his tenant's lease, and the tenant might be turned out of his premises without a penny, however much he might have expended on them, or he might be given the alternative of paying an increased rent based upon the value of the very improvements he had made. This was, as the House knew, the practice in the case of agricultural holdings in Ireland before Mr. Gladstone dealt with the Land Laws of that country. It was one of the greatest causes of agricultural decay and one of the strongest points in the great land war of the early eighties. They must remember that the unfettered ownership of land gave to the owner a power over the property of others that did not attach to any other kind of property. It was altogether different from the power which could be exercised by the owners of any other kind of wealth. Every person in business, whether as manufacturer, merchant or shopkeeper, must have the use of the land to carry on his business. He must accept the terms of the landowner before he could get land to commence business on. If he was about to start, say, a spinning mill or weaving factory or engineering work he must first settle with some landlord as to a site. If the landlord declined to grant him a long lease he must accept a short one, and when he built his factory it was only to be his, under the present law, until his lease expired. Then it was to be taken over by the gentleman who was good enough to give him permission to build it. Under such circumstances was it any wonder that they heard of jerry-building. But not only was he compelled to hand over his property in this fashion to his landlord, but, under a covenant, he usually had to hand it over in good condition. First, he built his premises which gave employment to men and women, then he had to maintain it in good repair and had to hand it over to his landlord at the expiration of his lease in good condition. That was surely a very one-sided kind of justice and must have a tendency to injure trade and prosperity in any country. But a feature to be observed in this form of confiscation was that when the landlord took over his tenant's property in this fashion it was not for the purpose of continuing the business himself, but only for the purpose of enabling him to demand a higher rent for the use of his land, either from the person who had created the property, or from some other person who was willing to pay a higher rent. The man who had created the property was treated on a par with the person who had not done so. The property was put into the market for letting, quite regardless of the interest of the tenant who created it. Thus on a second term the premises were let on terms which included a rent not only on the increased value of the land, but also on the improvements which the late lessee had made. If they heard any talk about confiscation in this debate, he would respectfully ask what term properly applied to the new rent charge made upon the land owned by the landlord, and also on the improvements made by the tenant. This Bill made provision to secure to the tenant all his improvements and, in the event of his landlord ending the tenancy at the close of his lease, he would be entitled to adequate compensation for any improvements he might have made which had been sanctioned by the court or by the landlord himself. Thus if the landlord took over his land at the termination of the lease he would be compelled to make full compensation for all improvements which the outgoing tenant had made. Was there anything claimed here for the tenant more than the barest justice? And, further, if the tenant was voluntarily leaving the premises he would be at liberty freely to sell his improvements to any person willing to purchase them. He was very strongly of the opinion that if ever they were to see trade and commerce flourish in Ireland it would not be by any application of the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, for a protective tariff, but by a further instalment of free trade in the direction of free production as well as free exchange of goods. This Bill would be a step in freeing the merchant and shopkeeper from the protective tariff collected from their labour and capital by the sleeping partner in their concern. In the very interest of the landlords themselves it would be wise to pass this Bill into law. There was a very great demand for it in Ireland, and more especially for the principle of compensation for tenants' improvements. The confiscation of these improvements which was now going on could not last much longer, and the sooner the question was allowed to be settled the better for the landlords. It was a question which, if kept too long in the arena of public discussion, might lead to the general questioning of the bases of landlord property as by law established.

And when the time came for opening the entire question of the right to land it would be difficult for the friends of landlordism to find substantial grounds for justification of the institution at all. Therefore, he would respectfully advise them, when in such cases as that of Ireland making her moderate demand for bare justice in such a Bill as this, they should not offer any strong resistance to it, but rather be ready to sacrifice a little of that which the law now allowed them to confiscate of their neighbour's property.

The second part of the Bill provided that a moderate amount of compensation should be paid for disturbance to the tenant on quitting his holding where such disturbance was caused by the landlord. It would hardly be denied that this was a reasonable and just provision. It was a proposal which had long been operative in favour of the landlord in cases where any portion of his property had been taken for public purposes. In such a case he received the full market value of the land taken and, in addition, he received 10 per cent. for disturbance. What was just in the case of the landlord could not be unjust in the case of the tenant. The amount of compensation proposed in the Bill was drawn on a very moderate scale. It was based upon the rent which was paid by the tenant. Compensation for disturbance was in operation in regard to agricultural holdings and had been found to work well. Formerly one of the chief causes of strife in Ireland between landlord and tenant was reckless readiness with which landlords turned their tenants out of their holdings without a penny of compensation for disturbance. It was found necessary to restrain the hand of the evictor, and the first step was to impose a penalty upon him in the shape of compensation for disturbance. It was this provision as much as any other contained in the Irish Land Acts which calmed down the war spirit of the Irish tenantry. It was a long step in the direction of fixity of tenure, and fixity of tenure meant national prosperity. It was of the utmost importance to the steady pursuit of trade and commerce that merchants and manufacturers should be left undisturbed in the possession of their holdings and not driven to seek for new premises to carry on their industry every few years. In this Bill they did not propose fixity of tenure to the extent to which it now applied to agricultural holdings, but they proposed that where a landlord at the termination of a contract chose to dispossess the tenant and so compel him to seek new premises, that he should be made to compensate to some small extent the tenant for the loss arising from his compulsory removal. Eviction bore much more heavily upon the merchant or manufacturer in the town than upon even the farmer in the agricultural district. And it was even worse in its consequences to the community. The town tenant might be doing a thriving business and giving employment to large numbers of workers in a particular city or town, and if he was driven out of the place by the act of his landlord his business might be, and usually was, ruined. The amount of compensation proposed in this Bill for such eviction would be merely a drop in the bucket as compared to the loss sustained, but still it would be so far a penalty falling upon the landlord which would deter him from expelling his tenants without reasonable cause. He was sure the self-evident justice of this portion of the Bill would commend it to the House without further words from him.

He now came to the third portion of the Bill which enabled a tenant to acquire the reversion of his holding in cases where his lease having expired he was called upon by the landlord to pay a higher rent or quit his holding. This provision was one which enabled the tenant, if he wished, to refuse to pay a higher rent or to quit his holding on the demand of his landlord. He might instead apply to the County Court to fix the amount of the landlord's interest in the holding and might, by paying that sum to the landlord, become the owner of his holding. He could not under this part make such application to the Court except in cases where the landlord had made a demand for an increase of rent or ordered the tenant to qnit his holding. He confessed that he never could understand why a landlord should at the expiry of a lease have the right to demand an increase of rent from his tenant. It was to be presumed that he let the land at the market value at the time and, as he was the only member of the community who made no contribution to the industry and progress of the country which gave an increased value to land, why should he, of all men, have the right to demand, under pain of eviction, an increase of rent upon the increased value? Why should he be the only member of the community who was permitted to gather where he had not scattered, and reap where others had sown? The increased value ought to be the property of the producer. The proposal in this part of the Bill did not prevent the landlord from making a demand for an increase of rent and noticing the tenant to quit his holding unless he paid the increase, but it did enable the tenant to apply to the County Court to fix the capital value of the landlord's interest and, on paying such capital sum, to become the owner of his holding. In the event of the tenant not being prepared to buy out his holding he must then either pay the increased rent or quit the holding. On the other hand, a landlord who wished to retain his holding would be slow to call for an increase of rent under threat of eviction when he knew that his tenant could meet his demand by a proposal to buy out the landlord's interest. The remaining provisions of the Bill dealt with matters which were more suitable for discussion in Committee, and he should not take up the time of the House by discussing them now on the Second Reading. In conclusion, he might be permitted to say, for the information of those who were not Members of Parliament a year ago, that a Bill drawn upon similar lines to this was then presented to the House with a Tory Government in power, and they succeeded in carrying the Second Reading by a substantial majority. This was a measure which was demanded by all parties in Ireland, and he was quite safe in saying that the Irish representatives stood almost united upon the principle of this Bill. [Cries of "No," from the OPPOSITION Benches.] Then hon. Members had changed their minds. Upon the last occasion when a similar Bill to this was discussed, they were within a measurable distance of the General Election, and that had a wonderful effect upon some hon. Members from Ulster. The Bill was demanded by the province of Ulster as strongly as by any other province in Ireland, and when the opportunity arrived he had no doubt the electors of Ulster would take note of the action of their representatives to-day. He begged to move.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) seconded the Motion. He confessed he was one of those who would like to do without legislation of this kind. He had hoped, personally, for many years that something might be done to avoid legislation of this character, but his hopes had been entirely disappointed. The landlords who owned town property in Ireland seemed to be no wiser than the notorious owners of land in Ireland in regard to whom legislation had been passed for a quarter of a century. A considerable proportion of the landlords of whom he was now speaking had been acting all over Ireland in a manner which, in his opinion, constituted an outrage upon property, and deprived them of all right of coming to Parliament to resist such absolutely necessary measures as this. One would imagine that the landlords of house property would do their utmost to encourage enterprise and building operations, but instead of that what they had done was to hinder building development, to crush out enterprise, and to prevent prosperity. When a lease fell out, the landlords of whom he was speaking, instead of giving a new lease for a long term at a moderate rent which might be justifiable, took advantage of the tenant's situation and forced on him a shorter term lease at a terribly increased rent, and very often that rent was assessed upon the improvements which they had compelled the tenant to make. He had proofs of what he said, but he would not quote more than one instance. Mr. John McCulloch, one of the leading business men of Kingstown—a gentleman who differed from him both in religion and politics, and who was a member of the local urban council—became about thirty years ago the owner and lessee of certain premises in Kingstown which, along with probably eighty or ninety other houses, had been orginally built on a plot of ground for which a rent of £27 10s. was paid as ground rent. His proportion of the ground rent would probably be only a few shillings. What happened in his case when the lease fell out? He was encouraged in the first place to build, and in the second place to expend a large sum of money in building two big business houses. Then, the ground rent, instead of being a few shillings, or a few pounds, was raised to £90 per annum. That was entirely confiscatory of his property. Mr. McCulloch thought that unjust. Did this House think it unjust? What moral right had any representative of the soil at Kingstown to come to this House or the other House and try, in the name of justice, to prevent such a Bill as this from passing after having committed such an outrage? The landlords went further still, for they sometimes evicted men, not for the nonpayment of rent, not for refusing to pay a higher rent, but simply because they did not like the tenant, or because of his action in public matters. He would read the following letter addressed by the agent of the Marquess of Clanricarde to a tenant in Loughrae—

> "Estate Office, Loughrea,
> "29th April, 1905.
>
> "Dear Sir,—I have been glad to see, from time to time, signs of your doing a good trade, and I have often mentioned you as a capable and energetic man of business. It would be well, I think, for the country if it had more traders like you with push and determination to succeed, and as a tenant you have given me satisfaction. Holding these good opinions of you, it is with regret that I feel it my duty to send you a notice to quit, the effect of which will oblige you to remove from the premises you hold. I have been agent for many years, and have always, so far as possible, tried to prevent tenants being ill-treated by their fellow tenants. I do not believe you personally desire to cause pain, annoyance, or injury to anyone, but as secretary of the Loughrea branch of the United Irish League you have done so, and I feel bound to use the *argumentum ad hominem* in the shape of the notice now served upon you. Faithfully Yours,
>
> "E. SHARP TYNAN."

Was not that a monstrous case? According to the testimony of the evictor this tenant had shown considerable enterprise, push, and determination to succeed. Was he under these circumstances to lose the business which he had built up, all his goodwill, and the property by means of which he lived, simply because in public matters he chose to take his own course? It might be asked—Why did tenants in Ireland acquiesce in, and submit to, treatment like this? He imagined that anybody who asked that question had never studied the matter at all. The answer must immediately occur to any candid and open minded man that no tenant would acquiesce in, or submit to, such terms if he could possibly avoid doing so. The truth was that, owing to the fact that land was locked up and kept from being divided, town tenants were just as much without any real freedom of contract as the agricultural tenants ever were. The town of Kingstown was all owned by two big landlords, and the tenants there had no alternative but to accept the terms offered to them or quit the place altogether. The small town of Skerries in his own constituency was owned by one landlord. It was occupied by people who lived partly by sea, and partly by employment which they received from neighbouring farmers. They had lived there for generations, and they had hitherto had long leases at low rents. When their leases terminated they were asked by the landlord to consent to comparatively short leases, to spend hundreds of pounds on new buildings, and to pay a moderately increased rent on the ground value, but to pay on buildings which they themselves had erected. If they refused to do this, they had no alternative except to go to America or Australia. That was the reason why the tenants submitted. If that was so, some remedy must be applied. Plunder was going on, and it ought to be stopped. He was told that this Bill would stop enterprise in building. In Galway, and indeed in almost all other parts of Ireland, roofless houses might be seen. What lesson would anyone derive from such scenes as to enterprise on the part of landlords? All over Ireland enterprise was checked by landlords, and the only enterprise was that shown by tenants who were robbed in the fashion he had described. Several proposals to remedy this state of things were made in this Bill. A man who had made improvements ought not to be deprived of them without compensation. The first part of the Bill which dealt with that matter passed through the House of Commons last year. In the House then there was a Unionist majority, and the Members from Ulster did not dare to oppose the Bill on the Second Reading. It passed through the Grand Committee on Law, and the changes in that part of the Bill of last year were made to restore it to the shape in which it originally stood, instead of allowing to remain in it the limiting, restricting and destructive provisions of the Land Act of 1870. He came now to the somewhat contentious proposal which, of course, would be opposed by the hon. Members for Dublin University and for Ulster. He would, however, just like to remark that there was not a leading provision in this Bill from beginning to end that had not a precedent either in actual legislation or in projected legislation favoured by both parties in this House. The clauses providing for compensation for disturbance were taken almost literally from the Land Act of 1870. What did the Bill say? It was proposed that where a tenant was evicted for any cause but non-payment of rent he should get compensation for whatever loss he might, in the opinion of the court—and the courts were not very feeling in the matter—have sustained, and in case of non-payment that he should also get compensation for eviction with disturbance, if the court thought that the rent he had failed to pay was exorbitant. This was a provision taken almost without alteration from the Land Act of 1870, and he maintained that in it there was no unjust force whatever. He would take the two cases most likely to arise. First, a person was ejected, say, for non-payment of a rent which was exorbitant. That person had created a business worth a good deal. He lost that business — the product of years of work. Was it not monstrous that he should have to give it up—the means by which he and his family lived — without being paid something for it, merely because he failed to pay a rent which would be confiscatory of that business? Even if he had no goodwill and could not get another house to live in, did he not still suffer loss—loss in the shape of removal, loss in not being near the scene of his work or his employment? And was it tolerable even in this case that another man's extortionate proclivities should be indulged in with impunity? And then if the rent was fair, there was no compensation. Let them take the second case —that of capricious eviction. An owner evicted a man at the end of a lease— not for non-payment of rent, but because he wanted to turn the house to other uses, or because he disliked the tenant. Did not the very same considerations arise in this case also? Was it not worse in this case that a man should be deprived of his business or his home without compensation? But one concrete case in illustration of their position in this matter was worth any amount of argument. Let them take Ward's case already referred to. Who would say that this unfortunate man Ward did not deserve some compensation, or that the landlord who could treat his tenant as this tenant was treated by Lord Clanricarde ought not to be penalised for such conduct and so be prevented from giving rein to his evil instincts? He would remind those who thought that they were going too far in giving the benefit of this clause to persons who, in being evicted for other causes than non-payment suffered no loss of goods, that this very session a measure had passed through its Second Reading in this House and through one of the Grand Committees—he meant the English Land Tenure Bill—which provided the very same remedy for English agricultural tenants in precisely similar circumstances. It might be said that cases might arise in which no loss would be sustained by a capricious eviction. If so, the Court would have power under this clause to award practically no compensation, for it was only the maximum of compensation which was in any case prescribed. No loss, no compensation. It might be said again that this clause would really mean or would lead to the fixing of rents. It clearly did not enact the fixing of rents; and, if they might judge from Irish experience, it would not entail fixing of rents unless the county made this clause nugatory by their administration, for he was one of those who thought that if the County Court Judges of Ireland had administerad the similar provision in the Land Act of 1870 in a proper spirit instead of giving it little or no effect, it might have prevented the fixing of rents to which this Parliament had eventually to resort. One word he would like to add on this point. This clause, he thought, as it was drawn, might admit to its benefits a person who had taken a furnished house for six months. Of course, it was not intended to apply to such a case, and any amendment which would exclude such would be readily accepted. He came now to the last part of the Bill; and he hardly imagined that this would be refused acceptance by either Party in the House. He had been very much interested in studying what was called leasehold enfranchisement in England. He had been very much astonished to find that the Liberal Party were the first to take up this question; but they appeared to drop it and the Tory Party then took it up. He could not recollect all the names of the Liberal

Members who, twenty years ago, advocated leasehold enfranchisement, but they included Colonel Lawrie and Sir George Pardon, who was Member for Paddington. And what did they propose ? That there should be attached to the end of every lease a provision granting a right to the compulsory buying out of the landlords' interest. If the Irish Members who supported this Bill went so far as that, he had no doubt that the right hon Gentleman the Member for Dublin University would make eloquent speeches in denunciation of such a proposal. But he and his friends who promoted this Bill did not go as far as that, They only asked to give power in two cases, viz., when a landlord demanded an increased rent which the tenant thought exorbitant; and when he proceeded to eject a tenant. Of course he could not imagine that any hon. Gentleman opposite who had any sense of justice or logic and who had been in favour of the larger proposal, would object to the minor proposal in this Bill. He fully expected that some comment would be made on the fact that this Bill proposed to go a little further than that. But in view of the case of Mr. Collough—which was only a typical one—they proposed that in the case of iniquitous bargains which had been forced on the tenants in the past, if the Court was satisfied that any existing lease would, before the passing of the Act, contain terms unjust to the tenants, that lease should be voided. That might be regarded as an extreme proposal. But here again the promoters of this Bill had founded themselves upon precedents. The clause in the Bill, as it stood, was word for word with the last part of Section 1 of the Land Act of 1881 which passed the House of Commons. It seemed to him to be absolutely necessary, if they were not going to set up two tests side by side - one suffering injustice all the days of his life during the currency of his lease, and the other suffering no such injustice because of the passing of this Act. He expected that the old cries would be raised about confiscation and plunder. But he was glad to say that those cries were becoming less passionate than they used to be. He was glad to say that in this Parliament they were not so great as in former Parliaments in which he had sat. They had heard such cries before and had discounted them; and the Irish Nationalist Members would discount them again. It would be said that this Bill would stop progress; but he would like to know where the progress was going to be stopped. Let any one go to the smaller Irish towns and he would see that the only progress made had been made by the tenants themselves in spite of the unjust state of the law. As long as men were able to make 6 or 7 per cent. by building operations progress would not be checked. They had endeavoured to lay before the House the means of preventing any check upon progress, and it was for those who said that those means were unjust, to prove their assertion, or to provide better means. It certainly did not lie in the mouths of two or three members of the Government to object to this Bill. It would not be consistent on their part to object to a Bill fixing fair rents, because in the year 1903 a Bill was brought in dealing with houses with town tenancies in England. The name of the hon. Gentleman the Member for Camberwell was on the back of that Bill, and amongst others who also backed it were the present President of the Local Government Board and one of the Whips, and he thought several other members of the then Liberal Party. The Bill actually contained a provision that rents should be fixed upon town houses, and that not more than 5 per cent. on the capital should ever be allowed in the way of rent. Moreover, that measure proposed the establishment of a tribunal for fixing rent, one-third of which should consist of a man nominated by the Local Trades Council. It went far in advance of anything Nationalist Members had thought of yet, but of course if this Bill were rejected then other ideas might occur to them, and in after years they might come forward with a Bill following the precedent set by the measure to which he had alluded. Another ground for recommending this Bill was that all parties in Ireland were in favour of it. He had, on behalf of the Party with whom he acted, taken counsel in regard to the preparation of this Bill, and upon a Committee sitting with very pronounced Nationalists, was one of the leaders of the independent Orange Party in Ireland. The Bill was, it was true, promoted by the Irish Nationalist Party, still he dared to say, notwithstanding the presence of two or three Orangemen from the north of Ireland, that the

Nationalist Party represented the overwhelming majority of all Parties and all creeds in this matter. On all these grounds—that there was an urgent grievance which required to be redressed; that this remedy did not violate any rule of equity or any code of morality; and that all Parties supported it—he commended with the greatest confidence to the present House of Commons this Bill for Second Reading.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said that hon. Members who sat below the gangway on the opposite side of the House had always been in the habit of calling him and his colleagues representatives of the landlord class in Ireland, a name which they had always protested against; because they had always represented not only the landlords but every section of the community in the North of Ireland. On this occasion, however, he had no hesitation in saying that he did represent the owners of property whom this Bill sought to despoil. He had very little to say in regard to the speech of the hon. Member who introduced the Bill—a moderate speech taken all round—except that the hon. Member remarked that this Bill was practically the same as that introduced last year. If hon. Members would examine the two Bills however, they would see that there was but a faint resemblance between them. It was true that the present Bill was like the Bill of last year, in so far as the first four clauses were concerned, with this important reservation, that these four clauses corresponded with last year's Bill as it was introduced into the House and not as it came from the Grand Committee on Law. That Committee removed two of their most serious objections to the Bill. The hon. Member who seconded said that he (Mr. Craig) and his friends did not dare last year to vote against the Second Reading of the Bill, but that now, after the election, they had the audacity to propose to do so. Upon the Second Reading of the Bill last year however, they had made their position perfectly plain, as they all, with the exception of one hon. Member from the Unionist part of Ireland, objected at the time to the retrospective clause, and he and the other hon. Members from the North of Ireland objected strongly, and still objected to the Bill being made applicable to large towns such as Belfast and Dublin. They also considered that the Bill should be applicable only to business premises. On the Second Reading, they said that they would in Committee do their best to get these provisions amended. Apart from the first four clauses, the Bill passed last year was a very different one from the measure now proposed. It proposed that the tenant on quitting his holding should be compensated for improvements made by him in his house and buildings, and his colleagues and himself had always held that that was perfectly fair, provided it was confined to the improvements made after the passing of any Act and to cases of towns where these hardships were likely to have existed; that was to say, in towns all over Ireland with a population of 6,000 to 8,000 inhabitants. The demand for compensation for improvements arose in this way. The first and the chief cause was that the town tenants a good many years ago thought that they should be treated on similar lines to tenants of agricultural holdings. He did not hold with that at all. The two classes of property were utterly different and the same principles could not be applied to both. The second reason, and he thought the true reason, for the origin of the demand was that in some towns in Ireland the whole of the property was in the hands of one landlord. Where that was the case there had undoubtedly been some hardships. He questioned very much if those hardships were anything like so numerous or so great as hon. Members would have them believe. It was curious that hon. Members who introduced the Bill had only given two instances of grievance and in neither case had they given the House full details.

MR. CLANCY said he gave them as types.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG said hon. Members could not expect the House of Commons to legislate on two isolated examples. An instance was given of a case in Kingstown. On the facts stated he could quite conceive that the owner had not in any way suffered a hardship. It was possible on the other hand that he had suffered hardships, but if he had the same thing happened in every town. Hon. Members on the other side, representing London or large provincial towns, knew that it was as common as possible. Did they consider that hardship was suffered? He was perfectly certain that the gentleman referred to by the hon. Member when he took his place in Kingstown had counted the cost before he made the bargain. The other case mentioned was that of Lord Clanricarde's agent, and he thought they ought to know a little more of the details of that case. The gentleman there was a member of the League, and they were not told what boycotting operations he had been engaged in and therefore could not say whether there was any hardship there. The hon. Member referred to Galway as an instance of the terrible state Irish towns were in, but if the hon. Member would take a walk in the part of Ireland which he (Mr. Craig) represented he would not see anything like that which he had depicted. He could mention a number of towns where precisely the same state of things existed as in Galway, and instead of their having a forlorn aspect they were towns with every appearance of prosperity, and they were, in fact, prosperous. He did not doubt that there were in those towns a large number of inhabitants who called for the Bill, but his point was that it was not fair to say that because Galway was in a stricken condition, therefore the present system bore hardly on the towns of Ireland. The cause of Galway's want of prosperity was a totally different one. When he left the first four clauses of the Bill, which he admitted were the same as last year, then the Bill became a totally different one, and while they found themselves perfectly able to vote for the principle of the Bill last year, he was glad to say that there was not a single member of the official Ulster Party who could see his way to vote for the remainder of the Bill, and that part would receive their most strenuous opposition. As regarded the provision of compensation for disturbance, that was carrying the Bill of last year to a much greater distance than there was any justification for. Not one argument had been put forward in favour of that clause. The promoters had shown cases of hardship in the case of improvements, but he maintained that no argument or hardship had been shown by them in dealing with those clauses respecting compensation for disturbance. He proposed to leave the discussion of that clause to those who followed him. Clause 6 was very important, because it dealt with the enfranchisement of tenants. He must say that it took his breath away when he read the extraordinary and extravagant proposals contained in Section 6. That anybody should make such proposals as were contained in that section certainly never entered into his head. It was a section of a most revolutionary nature. It did not propose, as often had been done, that tenants who had a considerable term of their lease to run should be allowed to enfranchise themselves, but that even a tenant from year to year should be able, by merely serving a notice on the landlord, to force the landlord to sell him all his property. Was there any reason in the world why a man should be able to go to his landlord and say, "You must sell me your house and land?" He thought it was a proposal which the House of Commons would think very seriously about before passing it into law. It was more far-reaching and extravagant than any proposal on the subject of land and town property which had ever been introduced into the House. He begged Members to read the section very carefully, and try and understand where such proposals would take them. They should bear in mind that the conditions existing in town tenancies in Ireland were precisely the same as those in England. In the case of agricultural land the system of tenure had always been so different from what existed in England and so difficult that it was impossible for the ordinary Englishman to understand legislation on the subject unless he had made a special study of it, but this was not so in the case of tenants in towns. He remembered that the hon. Member, who moved the Second Reading of the Bill of last session, confined himself to a short speech, as he said it was right that as many Members from Ireland as possible should address the House on the subject. He intended to reciprocate that idea, because he thought they should hear the opinions of as many Members from Ireland as possible, and he hoped of some from England, and for that reason he did not propose to examine the Bill very closely. There were one or two more points, however, he wished to notice. There was a clause which gave power to a Court to declare a lease void, and another which went a long way towards setting up what he thought all of them, certainly among Conservative Members, looked upon as an abomination to be avoided if possible, Fair Rent Courts in towns. There were provisions giving power to Courts to say whether a rent was exorbitant, and to set aside a lease. If power was given to a Court to hold that a rent was exorbitant, they would be going very close to the point of giving a Court power to declare what should be the rent. He thought there were many Members who would view with alarm anything that would tend towards setting up Rent Courts for town holdings. Some of them might go so far as to say that Fair Rent Courts had been necessary in the case of agricultural holdings, but they all felt it was a disagreeable necessity. He would say further that they would rather submit to a certain amount of injustice and hardship before setting up Courts which could never give entire satisfaction, and were always a source of conflict between tenant and landlord. On these grounds he proposed to vote against the Bill, and for the benefit of hon. Members from Ireland he might say that the effect of the general election had not influenced him in the slightest degree in this decision. The hon. Member who introduced the Bill last year said he had gone out of his way to produce a measure of a particularly moderate character, to which nobody could object. He (Mr. Craig) and his friends agreed with the principle of that Bill; and had one or two objectionable proposals been removed that Bill might have become law. He wanted to know why they had departed from what was done last year, and produced a Bill which was very much worse. It could not be supposed that a Bill with such drastic proposals could pass, and surely the proper course for the promoters would have been to introduce a Bill certainly no stronger than that of last year, which would have a reasonable chance of success. They had produced a Bill which compelled hon. Members at least from the North of Ireland to vote against it. He remembered on last year's Bill it was held up as a matter for congratulation that all sections of Irishmen were able to join together in trying to get it through. If last year's Bill had been re-introduced, striking out the retrospective clause, it might have had little difficulty in passing.

Mr. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix) said he rose to support the Bill which had been introduced, and the provisions which had been so ably explained by his hon. colleagues. He asked the indulgence of the House briefly to state a few of the most grievous wrongs under which town tenants suffered. These were divided under three heads: first, want of security; secondly, systematic taxing of their industry and enterprise; and thirdly, confiscation of their property. He readily admitted that the question required the greatest and most careful consideration in order that, while they attempted, and he hoped successfully, to provide a remedy for a great evil, they did not create another. They had to guard against unreasonable interference with the just rights of owners and against hampering or raising any obstacles to enterprise in the investment of capital in buildings, taking every precaution that, while they provided protection for the tenants' rights, for the property created by their toil and industry, protection should be provided in a like manner for the landlord against dilapidation and injury to his property by wasteful tenants outside fair wear and tear. He submitted that the provisions of this Bill not only steered clear of that difficulty, but, while it gave an instalment of justice to the tenant, it provided every just and reasonable safeguard for present owners and those who in the future invested their capital in buildings. This Bill could not be regarded as a Party measure. All town tenants in Ireland, irrespective of creed, approved of its principles and appealed to Parliament for some measure of justice and protection for the property created by their labour and industry. It had no opponents except the landlords who unjustly profited by the present iniquitous system. Under the present system there was no security or encouragement for a tenant. As a general rule houses were held under a yearly tenancy and the tenant was subject to eviction at the mere caprice or cupidity of the landlord. Even under these conditions, with very limited exceptions, all improvements were made by tenants. They created a business interest in the house, and immediately the rent was raised again and again until very often the tenant was made bankrupt owing to the cupidity of the landlord. Meanwhile the landlord never spent one penny on the premises. The tenant's property was confiscated by the landlord who appropriated the improvements. In the case of a yearly tenant, if by depression in business or some unexpected loss he was unable to pay the rackrent, he was evicted, the landlord appropriating his property. In the case of leaseholders the case was more grievous. In that case the tenant or his predecessor generally built the premises and founded a home. Leases were generally for a short period, say thirty-one years, sometimes ninty-nine years, but the conditions were so stringent and of such a nature as to render them valueless as a commercial security, and good only as a holding title against the landlord so long as the rent was paid punctually. On the expiration of the lease the tenant had to clear out, the landlord getting a fine from an incoming tenant and double the former rent for property created by years of toil and self-sacrifice by another person whom, through an unjust law, he was enabled to rob. In the town of Maryborough, a town of 3,000 population, nearly every house was originally built by tenants on short leases on the expiration of which they were taken over by the ground landlord. He admitted that the tenants were often left in possession, but only at double and sometimes treble the rent paid for the old plot. He remembered the case of a house built by a man at a cost of £1,500 on a plot of ground the rent of which was £16. When that lease expired the landlord, who had never expended a shilling on the property, increased the rent £30. In another case within his own knowledge a man spent £500 in improving his premises and on the expiration of his lease his rent was raised from £22 to £35. Then he remembered the case of a mechanic who paid 2s. 6d. a week for his house of two apartments. In that case some of the man's children went to America, and, as many children of Irish labourers and artisans did, sent money home to their father to assist him. With that money he rebuilt the house in which he lived, adding considerably to its size and putting on a substantial and slated roof. His rent was raised to 5s., although the landlord had not spent a penny on those improvements. Then there was a case in Queen's County. Thirty-two years ago a house was erected in a certain town in Queen's County at an expenditure of between £800 and £900 on a thirty-one years lease. The house let at a rent of £25 a year; the person who built the house left the property to his grandchild; a few months ago the lease expired; the landlord took up the property and the £25 a year rent, and the heir of the man who created the property did not get a shilling compensation, and, deprived of his means of living, had to enter a public charitable institution. He said the act of the landlord in taking over that property, though the lease had expired, was nothing less than an act of spoliation. He recalled another case in which a tenant within seven years expended £4,000 upon his property. The tenant was in occupation at an annual rental of £24. By industry and hard work he created a large business in connection with that property and out of his own resources spent this £4,000 in building magnificent business premises. He had a lease which was good as a holding lease against the landlord so long as he paid his rent, but the conditions of the lease were such that if he took it to his bankers and offered it as security for an overdraft the bankers would not look at it. The rent had been raised to £40 and when the lease expired the landlord under the present law could come in, take over the premises, and convert them to his own use. Another case to which he might refer was that of a tenant in Maryborough. In that case the rent was £16 a year up to about twelve years ago, when the lease expired. The rent was raised immediately to £50 a year. Within three years it was increased to £65. The roof of those premises was so bad that it was blown away. The landlord put on a new roof at a cost of about £90 and added another £20 to the rent, bringing it up to £85. This the tenant was unable to pay, and therefore had to leave about six years ago and sacrifice a valuable business interest connected with the premises without any compensation. What they asked under the Bill, what they demanded in the name of their people, was that the security of the law should be extended to the town tenants; that unjust rack-renting should be prevented and the systematic confiscation of tenants' property should cease. So long as this House insisted on governing their country against their will, they would demand that the Government should fulfil its obligations. Mere sympathy would not satisfy them. Sympathy must take some tangible shape, some earnest action, and the action they expected was that this Bill should receive Government support to carry it to a successful issue. He made every allowance for the difficulties of the position, and the enormous task before the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary. They believed he would give their country those rights which in her name her representatives demanded, but he might tell the right hon. Gentleman that, unless he took in his own hands with a grip of steel the management of Irish business, the officials of Dublin Castle would defeat him, make his administration a failure, and break his heart, as they had broken the hearts of other well-intentioned men before him. He appealed to this democratic House to pass this measure of protection and justice for the democrats of Ireland. It was boasted that wherever the British flag floated injustice disappeared, and there was protection and security for the humblest of the King's subjects, irrespective of colour or country, even for the Chinese coolie on the Rand. Days were spent debating how best to protect his liberty and secure him against wrong. Within a day's journey of this House there were wrongs to remedy, injustice to remove. There were here the representives of a nation as old, as rich in noble and historic memories as the British, whose children had helped to build up the Empire, demanding this measure of justice, and they asked that this House should fulfil its obligations, and give this measure of justice and protection which, in the name of the Irish people, they claimed.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) said he should like to engage the attention of the House for a few minutes as an Ulster representative. His reasons for supporting this Bill were three. In his opinion it contained the same principle as last year's Bill, it was demanded by all classes in Ireland, and, most important of all, the Union was quite safe. The last reason was an all important one in any legislation which applied to Ireland. He could not find a clause or sub-section in the Bill that endangered the union. The hon. Member for South Antrim had said he was going to vote against the Bill because it was different from that which was introduced last year.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said he had explained that the provisions were reactionary, unjust, and revolutionary.

MR. SLOAN: Then I understand that the hon. Gentleman would have voted against the Bill of last year if it had been introduced this year?

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: The hon. Member is quite wrong in thinking anything of the sort. Had the Bill of last year been introduced I should have voted for the Second Reading with the reservations I made last year.

MR. SLOAN said the hon. Gentleman had justified his (Mr. Sloan's) first statement. It was not necessary to pursue the argument any further in that respect. But he would like to say that so far as the hon. Gentleman had a knowledge of northern politics he would readily admit that this was not a Party measure, and that the Orange and Protestant democracy would benefit by the passing of this Act as much as the Roman Catholic in Galway, Limerick, or Connaught. He was giving his own opinion because he was his own leader in matters which affected the welfare of his fellow countrymen, whether they were from the north or from the south, and he had had a passage at arms with those who claimed the right to dictate to them freedom, liberty, and conscientious conviction, which he thought many members of this House would do well to cultivate, and none more than the hon. Member for South Antrim. The principle of compensation for improvements made by a town tenant was the real foundation of this Bill, and that principle had been admitted by the hon. Member for South Antrim, who voted in its favour last year, with the reservation that when the Bill reached Committee he would make Amendments which would go far to kill it. But the hon. Gentleman could justify his vote in favour of the principle of the Bill to-day and then when the Bill came into Committee he could protest against those portions of the Bill which he did not care to support. On the whole he rather liked the frank straightforward manner in which the hon. Gentleman had announced his intention of voting against the Bill, because it was much better than abstention. The men who abstained, as some Members from the north of Ireland did, were neither fish, flesh, fowl nor good red herring. When the hon. Member for South Antrim said that if the Bill last year had been reintroduced this year with reasonable Amendments it would have been placed on the Statute-book, he would point out to the hon. Gentleman the folly of refusing moderate legislation and he was quite prepared to go with the hon. Gentleman to the north of Ireland, to any constituency, and stand with him before the democracy on the principles of this Bill. If they took the Land Act of 1903, every Ulster Member was pledged to compulsion, and yet the hon. Member for South Antrim abhorred the idea of a landlord being compelled to sell to a tenant the holding he was occupying. There was, he was glad to say, a change of front in the north of Ireland—there was an opening of the blind eye. He would say this, that the justification for the Union was that they should not stand in the way of any reasonable, legitimate, and essential reform for the good of Ireland. even though they were Unionists. The fact that they came to the House as Unionists did not justify them in opposing every scheme for the good of Ireland. He would say that he wished as strongly, as keenly, and as earnestly for the welfare and prosperity of his country as a whole as any man sitting on the Nationalist Benches. And while they differed in politics and in religion there was a broad platform on which they could all stand which could be utilised for the benefit and the good of every section of the community of which they were all proud of being a part. The principle of the Bill had his whole-hearted support. He should always enter his protest against the perpetual representation of landlords by a small section of men who did not represent the large body of their constituents in that House.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: How did I get here?

MR. SLOAN said he would tell the hon. Member how he got there. He did not get into the House of Commons through the votes of South Antrim.

*MR. SPEAKER: What has that to do with the question before the House?

MR. SLOAN said he did not think it had much to do with the Bill before the House. But he was asked a question; and he did not want to be disrespectful. If he had refused to answer it would have been said that he could not. This Bill certainly vindicated the right of a man to get compensation for his improvements when he had spent his time and money in improving his property and building up a business. The fact that the Bill needed amendment was a justification for its passing. No Bill had ever been brought before the House which had not been admitted to require Amendment even by its supporters. When a Bill was read a second time, its principle was accepted, and not necessarily its details. It was with that qualification that he gave his whole-hearted support to the measure. He trusted that the Bill would not be sent to a Committee upstairs, but that the Government would see its way to find out how the pulse of Ireland beat on this question. He would be quite satisfied if they did that. Such steps as they would be prepared to take would lead to this Bill being placed on the Statute-book. He could not abstain from testifying as to his general knowledge and feeling with regard to this bill, and he was prepared to state that if the House would realise a little more the difficulty of getting a living in Ireland, and could understand exactly what it was to live in a small hut not fit for human habitation, the struggle necessary to eke out a mere existence, and the sacrifices the people of Ireland had to make in trying to build up a small business of their own and then be subject to confiscation by the landlords, they would give a whole-hearted sympathy to the Bill. There was nothing for Ireland's good, for her prosperity, there was no Bill ever introduced that would meet the requirements and needs of all, irrespective of class and creed, upon which the north of Ireland was not quite prepared to join hands with the South and West for the building up of the country and the making of life more pleasant and happy than it was. He had much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said the hon. Member for South Antrim had asked why the Bill had been changed. He took no part in the change himself but he could give two substantial reasons. In the first place, when they recollected how the moderate Bill of last year was treated—how hon. Gentlemen talked in favour of the principle in the House and when they got into Grand Committee deliberately talked the Bill to death, moderate as it was, that was not much encouragement for moderate people. But he had another reason why the Bill should be a stronger Bill. The Bill of last year was introduced into a Tory Parliament. They had, of course, to take into account Tory susceptibilities. This was not a Tory Parliament, and why should not they go one better now? Why should not they go for justice now, and why should justice halt with a Liberal Party in a majority such as the Government had? Having profited nothing by their moderation in the last Parliament — for hon. Gentlemen from Ulster dared not oppose the Second Reading when there was a Press Gallery to record their views which found their way to Ulster, but who could manage to oppose it upstairs—having had no encouragement, they had gone for a Bill which was just in the fullest sense of the word. The hon. Member for South Antrim had also dealt with the remarkable case from Loughrea, and he heard Lord Clanricarde's name mentioned, which was like a resurrection from the dead. But the hon. Member was most unfair and unjust towards his opponents. If he had known anything about the case from Loughrea he would have known this. The notice to quit was a sentence of death to Mr. Ward. He was using Mr. Gladstone's famous phrase because Lord Clanricarde owned the whole town of Loughrea and to put Mr. Ward out of that house was not only to destroy the man's business but to destroy the man himself. But what did the hon. Member say? He desired to know what Mr. Ward had been guilty of—had he done any boycotting? Now the hon. Member knew nothing about Mr. Ward, and he came to the House of Commons and levelled what practically amounted to a charge of boycotting in order to justify Lord Clanricarde's action. There was not a scintilla of truth in that innuendo, and if Mr. Ward had to leave his premises——

Mr. CLANCY: He has left.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL was going to say that if he had to leave, it was adding insult to injury to have a man's business destroyed, and then to have the representatives of Lord Clanricarde coming to the House to suggest that he was a boycotter. He was nothing of the kind, and no man had a right to use his position in the House of Commons to throw about such innuendoes, especially when they were entirely baseless. But they did not need to go to the west of Ireland. He would go to the hon. Gentleman's own county—to North Antrim, where a famous opponent of that Bill paid the price of his opposition. He would give two cases in Portrush. What had built up that famous watering place?

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL (Dublin University): Golf.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Undoubtedly. No doubt the town had been built up by those famous golf links. The rent of those links paid to Lord Antrim a few years ago was £65. They had become famous throughout the United Kingdom. Hotels had been built, the town had been improved, and all was due to golf. Lord Antrim had not done a single thing for the town except to put difficulties in the way of building. Now the lease of the Links had run out and Lord Antrim had demanded a rent of £500 and half the gross profits of the golf links. Those people did not arouse much sympathy in their case. They would not require to pass a Town Tenants Bill if it was merely for a case like that. But it showed what the landlord was everywhere. He had done nothing for the town. He had opposed and hindered building in any way he could, and when he got the chance he put in a demand for a rent like that. ["Shame."] Let them take the hotel. The Northern Counties Hotel, which was now the Midland Hotel, was let at a rent of £43. Now they had put it up to £500. His point in all this was that the men who were getting that rent had done nothing to earn it, and it was the community who ought to get the benefit and not the individual landlord. Let them take the town of Ballymoney. This question occupied a considerable place in the North Antrim election. What were the facts in Ballymoney? It was the fact that owing to the conduct of some landlord part of the town of Ballymoney was absolutely derelict, and people wishing to improve their premises and get places of business on reasonable terms had to go to another part of the town. And this was what hon. Members for Ulster—the defenders of the Union—had nailed their colours to. This was that for which they put their backs to the wall and were going to fight upon. Well, all he could say to those Gentlemen was that he honoured them for at least having the courage of their convictions and coming out in the open. The question was dodged in the last Parliament. It could not be dodged in this. The Member for South Antrim talked about a friend of his in Kingstown, a merchant there, a magistrate for the county—not a Roman Catholic, which would really account for a good deal with some people, but a Wesleyan Methodist and a citizen deserving of every respect. The hon. Member for South Antrim said there was no hardship in that case — that it was an isolated case. Did ever anything show the ignorance of this question revealed by that statement? Everybody knew that the Kingstown case was not the case of one man. It was the case of scores of men. What was the Kingstown case? The two landlords of that town were Lord de Vesci and Lord Longford. Owing to the conduct of the landlords nearly the whole of the publicans of Kingstown had to go to get new licences, and sitting on the bench as a licensing magistrate he learned the facts. What happened? Those shops in Kingstown were in a business thoroughfare, the ground landlords being the two noblemen he had alluded to, and the leases fell in a couple of years ago. What took place? The agents of the landlords served notices upon all those shopkeepers that they would be required to build new premises according to office plans. The tenants had nowhere else to go and with them it was either consent to the landlord's terms or blank ruin. Consequently they built new premises, palatial structures in most cases, and besides this they were called upon to pay a rise in rent in some cases of 500 per cent. This was what the Ulster Members were going to stand by. This was the flag they were going to wave in Ballymoney, Coleraine, Lisburn and all those northern towns. It was not a case of a man here and there, as the hon. Member for South Antrim seemed to imply —it was the case of the whole country. It was the case of every man whose lease fell in. He was told that this was a changed Bill. So it was. What were the changes? The Bill provided that if a tenant was treated in this way by his landlord and if he was obliged to go elsewhere in consequence he should have reasonable compensation for disturbance. He had had some experience upstairs considering the English Land Tenure Bill in Committee, in which they had to deal with this question of compensation for disturbance, and although not generally regarded as a moderate man he had been counselling prudence in this matter to English members. He tried in his innocence to get this compensation for disturbance limited by a scale in the English Land Tenure Bill, and was defeated. And now what did they find? That the Ulster Members were loudly declaiming against that very principle. An English farmer went into his farm fully equipped as a going concern, and he did nothing to it in the sense that an Irishman did. If he was dispossessed unreasonably and without just cause, what did the English Bill say? That he was to get compensation, not upon a scale limited as it was under the Act of 1870 or as it was limited by this Bill, but he would get compensation at the mere whim of the arbitrator to any amount and to any extent, and there was no appeal. He confessed that gave even him a shiver, but it was carried, and consequently it was not for English Members who had passed that to shy at compensation for Mr. John Ward, who was put out of his house and home by Lord

Clanricarde, and had his whole business destroyed.

Mr. CLANCY: The hon. Member has implied that under the English law, compensation would be paid only in case of eviction. I may point out that it is not necessary under the English Land Tenure Bill that the man should be evicted at all.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said if he used the word eviction it was a mistake. But why should they haggle over compensation? They were living in the twentieth century, and it did not follow that because a law had been in force for 150 years that it should always remain, or that what the last House of Commons did the present Parliament should not undo. The fact that a law had existed for centuries was no argument why it should exist any longer, and anything that could not give a good account of itself would have to go. Then there was another objection taken by these heroic gentlemen from Ulster, for while Toryism was isolated in England and Scotland the remnant of it survived in Ulster, —the last ditch of privilege. The last part of this Bill was practically leasehold enfranchisement, and had they never heard of that in this House before? What great hardship was there in that? Let them take a man with a lease for thirty-one years, which was a common thing in Ireland. He knew that there were short leases in Ireland. A ground landlord had only a life interest in his estate in most cases and they could not grant leases beyond their own life. He had been a victim of that himself, and he knew that his constituents also had suffered in the same way. Let them take a lease of ninety-nine years, or whatever lease they liked, and supposing a man built up a great business under that lease. Time went on and the lease ran out. He agreed that it was not unfair to consider afresh the whole position at the end of that term and nobody would contend that what existed ninety-nine years ago should necessarily obtain to-day. They were not proposing such a thing. It would be permissible under this Bill to consider the whole position afresh at the close of the lease, taking everything fairly into account. But supposing there was a disagreement. Was it unfair or unreasonable to say that compensation should be paid, bearing in mind that the landlord had done nothing in the matter. The landlords were generally represented by a solicitor, and it was therefore impossible to get at them. They were often represented by some solicitor in Dublin who had no actual power to do anything. Was it unreasonable in such a case where an agreement was impossible and the tenant was about to be ruined to say by statute that the tenant should have the right to purchase right out the interest that would not agree, which was a foreign interest, whilst the tenant's interest was at home? Under those conditions why should the tenant not have the right to buy the owner out at a fair price to be fixed by a Court or by arbitration; such a proposal was not unfair and it was a reasonable settlement. He had voted for this Bill before and he should have the greatest pleasure in voting for it to-day. These were the main features of the Bill. He took the position of Ireland and he wanted to speak plainly—and hoped he would not be misunderstood anywhere. The principle of the Town Tenants Bill was fought out in every Ulster election. It might be that the Member for Belfast did not discuss the question, but in almost every contested election in Ulster the Bill was before the people. They gave their verdict upon it and elicited pledges upon this Bill as well as upon others. This was a serious matter to have the country divided upon. The Town Tenants question did not affect Connaught, Munster, and Leinster any more than it affected Ulster. In fact he was not sure that, looking at Ulster and its position in business and commerce, the interest of Ulster in this question was not greater than that of any other province. The whole of the south and west of Ireland was solid for the Bill. What was the lesson that the hon. Member for South Antrim, putting his back to the wall three months after the election, taught the north? Was he going to tell these people in Ulster that the only way they could be redeemed, the only way they could get protection, the only way they could get security for their property, was to trust to the hon. Members below the gangway? That was what the hon. Member for South Antrim was doing to-day. He was glad the hon. Member for South Belfast had had the courage to throw him over. He drew a distinction between the hon. Member for Dublin University and the rest of them, because he did not speak for the same class of constituents that they spoke for, and that enabled him to speak with perfect impartiality. At all events the Ulster Members gave pledges in every election in favour of the principle of the Bill. They contended to-day that the Bill was not the same as that which emerged from the Committee, and on which they gave those pledges. If they were going to skate upon such thin ice as that he told hon. Members plainly that the people of Ulster would not understand it. Every shopkeeper in Ulster who was dispossessed ought to be compensated. He congratulated his hon. friends from Ulster on coming out into the open. He congratulated the Member for South Antrim especially. He represented a town community and, to a large extent, he owed his election to those very men he was now going to flout by voting against this Bill. The hon. Member had closed his speech without making any Motion for the rejection of the Bill. It was quite equal to what was done by the House of Lords last night, but it was a bad example to copy. Let them have the courage of their convictions, and let them move that the Bill be read on that day six months. Let them have a fair and square fight. He challenged any of them to do it. Let them not take the example of the House of Lords and simply say that they would vote against the Bill. Let them reject it and kill it, and then let them go to Ulster with the corpse.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said he regretted to hear the words which were used by his hon. friend the Member for South Belfast with reference to the hon. Member for South Antrim, when he said that the hon. Member did not come here by the votes of South Antrim.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Neither he did.

MR. T. L. CORBETT declared that the hon. Member did come from South Antrim to represent that constituency, because the hon. Member for South Tyrone was afraid to put up a puppet to oppose him as he did in other places. He was quite sure that the hon. Member for South Tyrone was learning wisdom in the position he now occupied from recent experience, because he himself was returned by a majority of over 2,000 votes. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: What has this to do with the Bill?] Now the hon. Member for South Tyrone was being sued for the expenses of one of the candidates at the last election.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: There is not a word of truth in it.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr. EMMOTT, Oldham): The hon. Member must confine himself to the subject of the Bill.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: The hon. Member says I am being sued for the expenses of a candidate.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: So you are.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: It is not true. There is not one syllable of truth in it. [NATIONALIST cries of "Withdraw!"]

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I repeat it, and nobody knows it is true more than the hon. Member. [NATIONALIST cries of "Withdraw!"]

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, may I ask whether, when a statement is made affecting a personal matter with reference to an hon. Member, and that hon. Member stands up and says there is not one word of truth in the statement, it is not only in accordance with Parliamentary courtesy, but with the rules of the House and debate that an absolute withdrawal be made?

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think it is usual for an hon. Member who has made a statement about another Member, which is denied by him, to withdraw that statement. I have told him that the whole question is out of order and requested him to speak to the Bill.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: I shall now, following your direction, Sir, confine myself entirely — [Interruption and renewed cries of "Withdraw!"]

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Try to be a gentleman if you can! [Renewed cries of "Withdraw!"]

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I must ask the House to allow the hon. Member to proceed.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: This is a matter affecting the courtesy of debate. I must appeal to you, Sir, with the very greatest possible respect and, I hope, with all due firmness, having regard to the rules and orders of debate—and I think the Clerk at the Table will agree with me in this matter—whether, when a personal imputation has been made and it has been repudiated by the Member affected, the hon. Member who has made that imputation is not bound by the courtesies of debate and faith in the other's words to withdraw it. I must ask you, Sir, in the exercise of your high office to call upon the hon. Member to withdraw it.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I must point out that this is not a personal imputation. A statement was made by one hon. Member about another which that hon. Member denies. I have no power to order, and I am not going to order the hon. Member who made that statement to withdraw. At the same time I have told the hon. Member that it is usual in the circumstances to withdraw, and of course he must understand that it is only natural that there should be a feeling of irritation about the statement which he has made.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: I will at once follow your direction, but I cannot withdraw a matter of fact. [Renewed cries of "Withdraw!"]

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not dealing with the question. I said it is a matter of ordinary Parliamentary courtesy in the circumstances to withdraw.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Probably I can end this. The hon. Member says that this candidate is suing me for expenses. There is a quarrel between his agent and himself, but I have nothing earthly to do with it and never had. Now will the hon. Member withdraw after that?

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: I shall now proceed to deal with the Bill. [Cries of "Oh!" and "Withdraw!"] If I am directed——

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Recognise the courtesy of debate.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member asks for my direction. I have not given any direction, but I have indicated the course which is usually followed.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: If the Deputy-Speaker has given any indication as to the course I should pursue, I will bow to that direction. If he has directed me to withdraw any expression I have used, I will follow that direction. I will always bow to the authority of the Chair.

The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs): May I appeal to the House to allow this incident to pass? It has had a definite observation from you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, with regard to the practice of the House. It has had a most specific observation from you with regard to courtesies of debate, and I think it would be unworthy of the dignity of the House to accept now any subjunctive or conditional apology from the hon. Member.

*Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman has agreed to follow my advice, and if so the incident is closed.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: I do not understand legal phraseology enough to know what is meant by a "subjunctive or conditional apology." I follow absolutely the ruling of the Chair.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member has followed my advice and withdrawn.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I absolutely follow the ruling of the Chair in every particular, but I am not going to be browbeaten or intimidated by observations from hon. Members in whatever part of the House they may sit. The hon. Member then invited the House to proceed with the consideration of the Bill in a calm and impartial spirit. He had always had the very greatest sympathy with many of the grievances of the town tenants. He voted for the Bill which was introduced on this subject last year, not only in this House but in Committee. The hon. Member for South Tyrone had said that many of them tried to do the Bill to death in Committee, but that was a charge which could not be brought against him fairly by anyone who was a Member of the Committee last session. He voted on most of the vital issues of the Bill last session. His reason for supporting the promoters of that Bill in Committee was that he thought it was a hard case that a man who had built up a business through a long series of years and by industrious toil, and where, to meet the needs of an expanding business due to his energies and business capacity, he had to add to the premises at his own expense, should receive no compensation for the outlay upon these premises but had to pay an added rent. In many cases where there were good landlords the rents went on unchanged from generation to generation, even though the value of property in towns had gone up. Still, a sense of insecurity and of injustice very often prevailed. That tended to cripple and paralyse industry and enterprise, and to hinder development both of the indvidual and of the community as a whole. He thought himself that the Scottish system of perpetual leases—what was called in Scotland feu duty, which was an annual amount paid by the tenant—was the best system on the whole. It was practically a perpetual lease. Anyhow, all were agreed that some change was needed, and especially in the case of small towns. In large towns the grievance did not exist, at all events, in the same acute form as in the smaller towns. In the larger towns, the competition of builders very largely, at all events, met the case and supplied the want. But they must be careful not to kill the competition of builders by too drastic proposals, and he feared that this Bill would have that effect, If all the drastic proposals of the Bill were carried out no one would care to own house property, and the result would be that it would stop building, throw thousands out of work, raise rates, and make the condition of town tenants worse than they were before. He believed that a fair and moderate Bill like that which he supported in Committee last session would do real good to town tenants, but he was afraid that this wild and reckless Bill—he could call it nothing else—was not really aimed at solving this difficult problem. It was meant simply to further discord and to do no real and lasting good to town tenants. Therefore, though he supported the Bill introduced in the last Parliament, and though he was strongly in favour of protecting the interests of town tenants, compensating them where they were fairly entitled to compensation, and protecting businesses which had been built up by the tenants' enterprise, he felt that this Bill would do more harm than good. He would be for these reasons reluctantly compelled to vote against it.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said the House as a whole had not realised the importance of this Bill. Recent legislation had given to the agricultural tenant security which enabled him to live on his farm at a judicial rent, and to get the value of his improvements. If that principle had been allowed in regard to agricultural tenants, why should not a similar principle be applied to town tenants? Its main features were simply a modified reproduction of compensation for improvements already admitted in various Land Acts, with security against arbitrary evictions or rent raising. The State granted a loan of many millions to enable farmers to buy their holdings, and urban residents were guarantors for punctual repayment. Why should objections be raised against town tenants purchasing their premises with their own money, especially as the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act recognised the principle of purchase? But they were told the landlords objected. He happened to be what is called a landlord himself. He did not care for the term landlord which had been used so often in this debate. He did not believe anyone was lord of the land except God Almighty. He looked upon the appelations "lords of the soil" as a kind of political blasphemy. No man was lord of the soil. God Almighty created the land for the whole people of the earth, and the man who held it, whether a noble lord or a humble individual like himself, was merely the ground-holder for such time as the Lord permitted him to live. Why a man should be called lord of the soil he never could understand. It was like some other phrases which were merely accepted by usage, like the exploded Divine right of kings. Let the House look at this question from a broad statesmanlike point of view. What were the facts? The City of London was the chief sinner in this respect. The ground-holders of London had plundered the business people of millions of money. The ground-holder not only charged what he liked for the ground, but actually dictated to the tenant the manner in which he should build his dwellings or business premises. The tenant must have windows of a certain pattern, the bricks must be made in a certain place, and the building must be so many storeys high. He knew a tenant who wanted a certain part of his roof flat, and the ground-holder refused on that account to give him a lease. Further, the terminable leasehold system constituted one of the main obstacles to the proper housing of the workers. There was no other nation, except England, that had permitted the system of terminable leaseholds to obtain. He knew that the hon. and learned Member for Trinity College had come here prepared with a critical oration, but he really represented in this House only a select scattered *coterie* of non-tenants. He belonged to what might be called a species of intellectual obstructionists, representing the Trinity College and the silent sister. The hon. and learned Gentleman was not silent when the rights of the people were being discussed; he was always on the side of privilege, pension, or pay. He himself was president of the Town Tenants' Association of Ireland, and had been working at this question for the last twenty-five years. He was pleased to say that public opinion had been educated on the subject, and at last it had come to the front as a most pressing matter that must be dealt with. During the last Parliament even the Tory Government recognised that the town tenants had some rights. Surely, therefore, as the hon. Member for South Tyrone had stated, they could go one better this time. The hon. Member for North Down said that if this measure was passed it would stop building, put thousands out of employment, and raise rates. If the hon. Member went through the provincial towns in Ireland, he would see that even in the smallest village progress was prevented by the existing terminable leasehold system, which created slums and paralysed improvement, because there was little security for outlay. There was no other country in the world which would tolerate the leasehold system of tenure, and permit the grantor of the lease to confiscate a man's property, to destroy his business and his means of livelihood, to evict him, and to take the benefit of municipal buildings erected at the expense of the rates paid for by the tenants. He did not wish to dwell too long upon this point, but he would take a concrete case, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman who represented Trinity College would reply to his argument—that is, if he could. Some ninety years ago there was an agricultural holding rented at from £3 to £4 per acre. It happened that the Government wanted a harbour, and selected Dunleary, which was thereafter called Kingstown, and it became what was called the premier seaport township of Ireland. The leases in Kingstown terminated in 1903-4, and the ground-holders came along and appropriated the whole of the town, including the drainage, lighting, roads, municipal improvements, etc., to which they had not contributed, but which had been paid for by the resident ratepayers, whilst the ground-holders were absentees.

Many years ago the late Lord Randolph Churchill obtained a Return which disclosed that even Turkey or Russia would not sanction such a system as prevailed in Ireland. The opposition to the existing law was as strong in the north of Ireland as it was in any other part of the country, and some of the very best fighting tenant right associations were in Ulster. As a matter of fact, the other day a Presbyterian Protestant was to be evicted from his occupancy. A few of his neighbours gathered around him with pitchforks to prevent it. That was a most extraordinary event in the loyal north! But he was not evicted; and the man was in his tenancy still! That incident showed that the town tenants of Ireland were determined to resort even to such courses in order to protect themselves from spoliation; and it was to prevent violent disturbances that this Bill had been introduced, and the promoters desired it to be clearly understood they did not seek to take anyone's property, but simply to secure property to those who created it. Therefore this agitation was extending to England. The chairman of the London Town Tenants' Association was in the House listening to this instructive debate. He was at the recent annual meeting of the Association of the Trade Protection Societies of the United Kingdom held in London. The association was composed of 105 affiliated societies with a membership of 50,000 merchants, manufacturers and traders in the United Kingdom. This meeting unanimously passed, on his motion, a Resolution "calling upon the Government to introduce a measure which will abolish the terminable leasehold system and so prevent the confiscation from tenants in cities, towns, and villages of their improvements and the dislocation of their business arising through the terminable system of tenure, which is unknown elsewhere." He commended that Resolution to the earnest consideration of the right hon. Gentleman the Solicitor-General for Ireland, who was a Member for one of the divisions of Liverpool City, which sent several delegates, some of them perhaps his constituents, to this great commercial meeting. The Chief Secretary was always assuring them of his sympathy respecting Irish grievances. He wanted more than barren sympathy, he demanded Government help to pass this moderate measure; and he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that unless something was done in relief of the town tenants of Ireland there would be more than mere passive resistance to the iniquitous and unjust law which injuriously affected business, resident workers and artisans. Something had been said about Ballymoney. In Tyrone the town tenants mainly returned the county Members. The late hon. Member for North Antrim, Mr. Moore, had voted for the Town Tenants Bill last year, but helped to wreck it in Committee; but he himself was shipwrecked at the general election, while Lord Atkinson left Londonderry, N., and went to the House of Lords and so escaped facing the town tenants in that division. But the Ulster Members who now opposed this reform in the House would soon be reminded of their opposition, for all creeds and classes and politicians were united in asking for remedial legislation. Even the right hon. Gentleman who now represented South Dublin admitted that exceptional treatment was required. Quite recently the energetic hon. Secretary, Councillor Briscoe, a strong Nationalist, and Mr. Lyndesay Crauford, the Grandmaster of the Independent Orangemen, went on a tour round the northern towns and villages to advocate this measure, and they were received everywhere with acclamation! In conclusion, he wished to express the hope that the Government would take up this measure. Everyone knew perfectly well that it was almost impossible for a private Member's Bill to get passed into law without getting facilities from the Government. He held that no more important measure had been brought before the House than this Bill, and it was supported by the vast majority of the people of Ireland.

SIR D. DIXON (Belfast, N.) said that in the case of a place like Belfast such a Bill was not necessary, for the habit was to grant long leases.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Why not give the same fair play to the south?

SIR D. DIXON said the example of Belfast had been imitated by the other towns in the north of Ireland such as Lisburn, Lurgan and others. He would oppose the Bill on the ground that it was not needed.

MR. MOONEY (Newry) said that an hon. Gentleman opposite had declared that no Member from Ulster would vote for such a Bill, but he had overlooked the fact that the hon. Gentleman who introduced the Bill was an Ulster Member. The hon. Member for South Antrim had in 1904, as could be shown by a reference to *The Parliamentary Debates*, supported a Town Tenants' Bill which differed in no respect from that now before the House. The reason for the change of attitude of the Ulster Unionist Members in regard to this question was, of course, that the general election had since taken place. One argument had been used against the Bill. It was said that it would stop building; but, at Kingstown the Chamberlain of the ground landlord told a tenant who wished to rebuild his premises that he might rebuild, but only in the position which he, the Chamberlain, selected. So that for many months the building was derelict owing to the action of the landlord. The same thing was happening all over the country—in the south as far as Cork, in the west as far as Galway, and in the northern province of Ulster. All that was asked for in this Bill was that when a tenant was evicted he should have compensation for the improvements he had made on the property; that he should be protected from capricious eviction; and that a fair rent should be fixed by an independent arbitrator. One of the advantages of this Bill would be to give work to a very overpaid and underworked body of men in Ireland, namely, the County Court Judges. They would have to administer the Bill, and he did not think that they could be accused of being too lenient towards the tenants' interest. He hoped that the House would give the Bill a Second Reading by a large majority and that the Government would give them facilities to carry it into law. He hoped that they might avoid the kind of opposition which they experienced last year, when a number of Ulster Members came down to the House, and when the public Press was there to report them, supported the Bill, and then, when they got upstairs into Committee, proceeded to try to kill it with Amendments.

*MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh N.) said that as a town tenant and holding no landed property, he had every disposition to protect the just right of town tenants. There were no doubt many directions in which the law might be amended in favour of the occupying tenants without inflicting hardship on the owners of property, who he would point out were, in many instances, very small people. Investment in house property had always been a form of investment favoured by people who had saved small sums of money, and who did not at all belong to the class that they generally contemplated when they spoke of landlords. No doubt in some towns property was held by large landlords, but he should say that in the vast majority of cases the owners of property in towns who received the rents of town tenants were very small people. They were not capitalists, and they were not a class of people that this House would be disposed to place heavy burdens upon. As to the system of long leases, it was obvious that Belfast had enjoyed unexampled prosperity owing to the granting of them. Nobody would object to the granting of long leases, but that was not the question which the Bill dealt with. He would point out that the law as regards leases as it now stood was more favourable to tenants in Ireland than it was in England. Under the Settled Land Act in England, a person could get a building lease for 99 years and an ordinary occupying lease for 21 years. In Ireland, however, he could get an ordinary occupying lease for 35 years, and a building lease for 99 years, so that the suggestion of the hon. Member for South Tyrone that there was some inability imposed upon limited owners in Ireland in regard to the granting of leases, was due to his not being aware of the legal conditions attaching to the matter. If, however, any further facilities in that direction were required he would be entirely in favour of granting them. On reading this Bill he was greatly struck with another aspect of it and one which interested him very much, and that was the prospects of brisk business which it held out to both branches of the legal profession. The Land Act in Ireland had given many opportunities for business to both branches of his profession for the last twenty-five years. Indeed it had been their main source of income. That business showed signs of ebbing away and they would not have so much business as they had had before. As a lawyer he regretted it, but as an Irishman he rejoiced that the Land Purchase Act was wiping out the business of rent fixing. When a tenant farmer became a freeholder he had no longer to come into the Law Courts to have his rent fixed, the most troublesome process which they had had to deal with in Ireland for the last quarter of a century. Therefore in Ireland it must be remembered that they had all over the country to contemplate the business of the Land Court coming to an end, but this Bill came to the lawyer's rescue, as it proposed to apply to all the town tenancies in the country, the principles of the Land Act. Whether that was good or bad he did not discuss for the moment, but virtually that was the effect of the Bill. It did not directly, or in terms, provide for the fixing of rents, but that was the logical outcome. He did not see how if the present Bill were to pass they could refuse a Bill fixing fair rents. If the House approved of the present Bill it would be bound to approve of a Bill fixing fair rents, because the principle of fair rents cropped up in every section. The result of such an extension of the principle of the Land Act must again plunge Ireland into that sea of litigation from which land purchase seemed in a fair way to extricate the country. From that point of view the Bill should be attractive to lawyers, but he thought they were bound to take a wider view in the interests of the country, and see whether the Bill was really for the public good. From that point of view he was afraid he could not approve of a good deal of the Bill; though there were parts of it he did approve of. He approved of compensation for improvements under proper limitations and restrictions, for he thought it perfectly fair there should be compensation for improvements which added to the letting value. He did not think, however, that this principle should be applied retrospectively to leases which might be for terms of 100 or 200 years. As regarded business and trade premises he thought something might be done. Let them take, however, the case of a lease of 100 years, just expiring. The land when the lease was granted might have been agricultural land, and let at a particularly low rent. The lessee and his successors would have had the advantage of this for a long period of years, and yet at the termination of the lease the lessor's successor, who might be a poor man, would be bound to buy the houses on the land. Those houses might have been sold over and over again in the course of the 100 years, and the present possessor might have bought them only in the last five years, and on the assumption that the lease would terminate at the end of five years. Yet under the first section of the Bill this speculative person, who paid a trifling sum for the houses, would get full value for them, entering in fact into the enjoyment of the fruit where he had not sown the seed. He pointed this out, not through disapproval of the principle of compensation, but to show how difficult it was to draft a section, which would work out justly and fairly, for the benefit of persons really entitled to benefit. If the law of compensation for improvements applied only to future leases, then people would regulate their bargains accordingly. They would buy and sell knowing this liability, and the price would be adjusted to the conditions. He was aware that there were certain equitable provisions in the clause, but he did not think they would be of any practical utility. The Bill would deal with leases for 1,000 years if there were any in existence. Certainly there were many leases for 250 years in Ireland, and what evidence could be brought before the Court as to the values of the land during that period? The section said that the Court must take into account the advantages the tenant had had, and it must therefore investigate what at all periods was the fair rent. How was this to be assessed? Those who had had any experience of the working of the Land Acts knew how unreliable evidence was when they went back to periods beyond the time of the witnesses who could be called. The second section purported to limit the tenant's right, but this seemed to him rather a dangerous section, tending to bring in the principle of fair rent. Who was to determine whether the landlord had made a reasonable offer to the tenant to enable him to sell his lease to an incoming tenant, except the Court, and how was the Court to determine it without fixing a fair rent at which the incoming tenant was to come in? For, if the landlord was entitled to get what rent he could for a house in its improved state, the tenant would have no improvement to sell. It was necessary the Court should assess what was the rental value of the place or the section would not work at all, He approved of the principle of Clause 3, which seemed to him drawn in a spirit of justice and fair play, which should go far to settle the question of compensation for improvements. He knew that hon. Members were pressed by constituents to make the Bill retrospective, but it was a serious matter to break up existing contracts. As regarded Clause 4, the shifting of the liability from one of the successive holders of property to another was, he thought, objectionable to everyone, except lawyers. It seemed to him to involve a succession of law suits of the most profitable character to the lawyers, for in the majority of cases in town tenancies there were several interests between the tenant and the ultimate freeholder. As regarded the section which purported to give compensation for disturbance he quite admitted that it was often a great hardship for a tenant to be disturbed, but it was very difficult to say where the hardship came in in cases where a man had taken or bought a lease or an interest in a lease, when he knew exactly the kind of contract into which he was entering. It was not too much to ask a reasonable human being, when he took or bought a lease for twenty-one, twenty-nine, or thirty years, to know from the very start the nature of the bargain he had made. A man knew very well at the time what his rights were. As to the people who held under more fragile tenancies they had his sympathy, and they also had the sympathy of the law which always tried to protect them. If hon. Members desired to give an increased number of years of tenancy to those who held under fragile tenancies, let them do so, so long as they provided for a certain term, and not that at the end of the tenancy the man was to come into Court and have a litigation as to what he ought to be paid for disturbance. The prospect again was attractive to a lawyer, but who was to pay the costs of the litigation, and under the Bill the matter could not be settled in any other way than by going into Court? The landlord offered a ten or twenty years lease and the tenant said he would give £200 or £2,000 for it knowing the terms of the bargain. If hon. Members wanted to provide for longer leases let them do that, but it seemed to him an unfortunate way of working it out to say that in every case the moment a lease had come to an end the tenant was entitled to go back on the bargain which he or his predecessor made. The provision to make the Bill retrospective seemed to him to break up the bargains which people deliberately made. He was so much in favour of tenants owning the houses they lived in that he did not want to oppose the clause dealing with that matter at all; in fact he should not be opposing the Bill if the clauses were better drawn. The purchase provisions of the Bill, however, seemed to him to be unworkable, and would lead to litigation between the occupying tenant and the owner. Except in the case of large tenancies the costs would absorb the whole or nearly the whole of the money, and by the time it got to the owner there would be very little left for him unless it was contemplated by the Bill that the tenant should pay all the costs, which of course would be an absurdity. Another portion of the Bill which he would have been favourably disposed towards was that which dealt with leasehold enfranchisement. With Clause 10 dealing with restriction of contracts he could not agree. The clause affected contracts past and future. He objected to its being said that in future people should not have the power to make a contract. That seemed to him to take away a right which had always been exercised by people, and he could not see why a tenant who was not coerced or fraudulently induced to enter into a contract should not be allowed to do so. The Bill would, it seemed to him, almost impose on subjects of the realm a condition of slavery which he could not approve of. Was it to be said that two sane men in full possession of their faculties should not, if this Bill passed, be able to agree together on the letting of a house. As hon. Members saw, the promoters of this Bill had taken the opportunity of going farther than they did on the previous occasion. He regretted it because if they went too far they were bound to lose the support of many who would otherwise have supported the Bill. He himself regretted that he was not able to support it, because there was a great deal in it that he would have liked to support. When he came down to the House he was inclined to vote for the Second Reading, in the hope that the promoters would moderate some of its provisions, but so far from there being any disposition to moderate the provisions, the Bill itself seemed, on the statements of its supporters, to be only the first instalment in a career of what could only be described as wild legislation. Those who were desirous of supporting the Bill were not met with any suggestion that it would be made more moderate. It was only a first step, and he agreed that if it passed it could only be a first step. It was impossible to work it in any way which he knew unless they applied the whole of the rent fixing jurisdiction now applied to agricultural holdings to town properties, and even then it could not be worked with justice. He quite recognised that there were many cases in which the tenants had been badly treated by their landlords, and that it was these cases that roused the ire and anger of hon. Members when they heard of them, but was it only in the case of a landlord and tenant that things of this kind occurred? Was it not a fact that in every relation of life people were to be found, who, when they had power, used it to squeeze their fellows? He did not think it was a very hard thing for a landlord to be able as a condition of granting a new lease, to compel a man to pull down an old house and build a new one on a stipulated uniform plan when leases fell in. But the fact that hard cases had arisen did not justify the House in passing a Bill that might throw a very heavy burden upon many people who were not able to meet it. The subject required very careful consideration, and it needed to be dealt with cautiously and carefully, and not in the hurried manner proposed. The law of England and Ireland in this matter of landlord and tenant in towns was the same. Why was Ireland to be experimented upon in the way the Bill suggested apart from other parts of the United Kingdom? He, and many other Members, considered that the Bill would be fatal to the prosperity of the towns of Ireland by making landlords unwilling to expend capital on buildings. The Bill went too far and he could not support it, though he would have been glad to support a reasonable Bill.

* THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange) said he thought that everybody who had listened to the debate would agree that this Bill was of a very important and comprehensive character. It vitally affected almost everybody who lived in Ireland, for everybody lived in a house and a great number of people owned house property, so that whether they looked at the question from the point of view of landlord or of tenant it was a highly important Bill. It had three main subjects, but it really dealt with four. First, there were provisions with reference to compensation for improvements; secondly, provisions with respect to compensation for disturbance; thirdly, provisions as regards enfranchisement of tenancies, which were practically compulsory powers of purchase of a very wide description; and fourthly, a clause giving power to set aside leases. This last was a distinct and separate matter of very great importance. He thought it was very much to be regretted that there had been so much put into this one Bill. Last year a Bill was introduced dealing with the subject of compensation for improvements. It was a matter of great importance and the whole House he believed was unanimously in favour of the principle of compensation for improvements being extended to occupiers of business premises and town holdings in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary voted for that Bill, and if the present measure had

been confined to the first four clauses and to the supplementary clause he did not think that the Government would have found any difficulty whatever in accepting the Bill and giving time to facilitate its passage through the House. The principle of compensation for improvements had been in operation in Ireland as regarded agricultural holdings since 1870, and he did not think there was a single person in Ireland who would get up on any public platform and deny that it was just that tenants of agricultural holdings should get compensation for improvements either by money payment or by remission of rent. The principle had worked well and had inflicted, so far as he knew, no injustice whatever, and there was no reason why it should be confined to agricultural holdings. It had always appeared to him that a man in a town who had put up valuable buildings at his own expense and improved the property he occupied, had just as good a claim to be compensated for the increased value which the landlord thereby succeeded to as any occupier of a farm. It was not as if the custom of making improvements by the tenants was confined to agricultural holdings. In small country towns in Ireland it was quite a usual thing for the actual house to have been built by the tenant himself and very often on a very short lease. Some such tenants held only from year to year, and having built valuable buildings on plots of ground continued to pay for them for a great number of years merely a nominal ground rent. It was not a desirable state of the law that tenants who had done that could be put out of possession without getting any compensation for what they had done. It was only fair to say that, although many landlords did act harshly, there were a great many who had been most generous, and there were many tenants who trusted entirely to their landlords and put up buildings on plots of land held on very short leases and even from year to year, and whose landlords did not think of disturbing them. That, however, was no reason why the law should be in such a condition as to allow a landlord to act in this manner, and he personally on that ground should vote for this Bill. But the Government was bound to consider not only the first four clauses of the Bill before coming to a conclusion, but also the remaining clauses. If the Government supported the Bill it must be because they approved of it as a whole.

Mr. DILLON said they could approve the principle.

*Mr. CHERRY agreed, but said the principle and the details in this case were very hard to separate. With reference to the second part of the Bill dealing with compensation for disturbance he wished to point out that it was the principle of compensation for disturbance as applied to agricultural holdings that undoubtedly led to the fixing of fair rents, and directly they admitted the principle of compensation for disturbance in the case of town tenants it became necessary to consider the propriety of fixing fair rents, and he thought the House ought to pause and consider whether it was right to allow rents to be fixed on all shops and houses held for purposes of residence. The provisions of Clause 5 were also far wider than the provisions of the section of the Act of 1870 and practically gave the tenant of every house in Ireland a right to compensation for disturbance even though the tenancy might be only for six months.

Mr. CLANCY said that was never intended and they were prepared to accept an Amendment to exclude temporary lettings.

*Mr. CHERRY asked on what principle would they exclude temporary tenants, because a man might take a house for twelve months or for two years, or ten years as a temporary tenant; would those tenants be excluded?

Mr. CLANCY: It is a Committee matter entirely.

*Mr. CHERRY did not see where the line was to be drawn between a temporary and a permanent tenant.

MR. CLANCY said he would exclude any tenancy created for temporary convenience. If the hon. and learned Gentleman was capable of drawing up an Amendment to that effect, as he was sure he was, the promoters of the Bill would accept it.

*MR. CHERRY said that temporary convenience as defined by the Acts of 1870 and 1881 had no relation to any period of time but to the purpose for which the letting was made. From that point of view, every letting for residence was a letting for temporary convenience. It might be a Committee point, but really there were so many Committee points both in this section and the next that it appeared to him that, if the principle were once assented to, it would be very difficult to differentiate between the cases the hon. Member intended to exclude and those he did not. Let them take the case of labourers' cottages built under the Labourers Act.

MR. CLANCY: Exclude those by name, though if a labourer made improvements I do not see why he should not be compensated.

*MR. CHERRY said that was a different thing altogether. He was speaking of compensation for disturbance. There was not a single tenant in Ireland, who could not get compensation for disturbance under this Bill. The English Land Tenure Bill proposed to limit compensation for disturbance to cases—

> "Where the landlord unreasonably and without sufficient cause terminates and declines to continue a tenancy."

MR. CLANCY: Put those words in in Committee.

*MR. CHERRY: Of course you can put anything in in Committee; you might alter the whole Bill in Committee.

MR. DILLON: None of the changes you are talking about affect the principle.

*MR. CHERRY: If the hon. Gentleman will be content to accept Amendments from me he will make the Bill perhaps more moderate.

MR. CLANCY: Would the right hon. Gentleman accept the words of the English Act?

*MR. CHERRY said he saw nothing unreasonable in the words of the clause of the English Bill, but that was a matter to be considered. Clause 6 was an alternative to compensation for disturbance. He supposed it was not intended that a tenant should have both. Under the section the tenant would be entitled either to compensation for disturbance or a right to purchase. The intention, he assumed, was that if a tenant did not obtain compensation for disturbance he had a right to purchase his house. That was a very wide provision. It gave a right of purchase to town tenants which the holders of farms did not possess, and when they dealt with compulsory purchase in this way they opened up considerations of enormous importance. The Act was also to be retrospective and any persons who had been disturbed within ten years previous to the passing of the Bill would acquire this right. Supposing a man owned ten houses which were let to ten different tenants and that one of those tenants sub-let a stable to a cabman. Then supposing that owing to some dispute that tenant did not wish to have the cabman there any longer and evicted him, that cabman under this Bill had a right to purchase and then would come all the difficulties in respect to the redemption of head rents and investigation of title. The proceedings would be very long indeed. All that would have to be done whenever the smallest portion of any premises happened to be sub-let, and the tenant was evicted by his landlord. Then he noticed that the administration of the Bill was to be vested in the County Court Judge. How could a County Court Judge go into all these matters? Who was to go down to investigate the titles, and who was to be responsible for the apportionment of the rents from the head rent down to that of the tenant? He approved of the principle, so far as it could be carried out, of giving a tenant a right to purchase his premises, but to apply, as this did, the County Court procedure to the purpose was impossible. For that reason he regretted that these two clauses had been incorporated in the Bill. If the Bill had been confined merely to compensation for improvements and those clauses were in some way amended, no doubt the Government would have supported the Bill. The Government would be very glad indeed to see some system for purchasing town holdings established. It was very desirable that people who occupied houses for business purposes should own their houses if possible, and they should not be liable to be put out of them through any action they had taken. The man who owned the house in which he lived was in a much stronger position than the man who was dependent on his landlord from day to day, and might be turned out at the end of six months. But it was necessary before they adopted the principle to see how it could be carried out with justice to all parties, and without depriving anybody of his fair and legitimate rights. Then there was the power to declare leases void. That was contained in a sub-section of Clause 6 and that the hon. Member for North Dublin informed them was copied from the Land Act of 1881. But he would remind the hon. Member that the clause of that Act conferred power upon the Land Commission, presided over by a Judge of the High Court, and that there was an appeal. Here the jurisdiction was given to the County Court, and surely a jurisdiction of that kind was not one that could be left to an inferior tribunal. It was a very important matter and one which could not conveniently be included in this Bill. County Court Judges had a great deal of business to do, and they were not appointed to investigate the rights of property of a valuable nature. If the Bill were confined to what was its main object, namely, to give the tenants of Ireland holding non-agricultural holdings on which they had spent money on improvements, security for those improvements, and to prevent their landlords unjustly and improperly taking their improvements, all the House would have been in favour of it. The other provisions of the Bill as regarded the compensation for disturbance and right of purchase were on a different footing and he could not, on behalf of the Government, approve of the principles of compensation for disturbance or of compulsory purchase being applied at the present time to town holdings.

*MR. JAMES CAMPBELL (Dublin University) expressed his amazement that after the speech which had been delivered by the right hon. Member for Exchange Division of Liverpool he had announced his intention of voting for the Bill. He understood from him that there was no matter of principle in the Bill of any kind that had his support or approval, except what was to be found in the first four sections of it.

*MR. CHERRY: No, I said I did not approve of the fifth and sixth sections.

*MR. JAMES CAMPBELL observed that when the right hon. and learned Gentleman got so far in the expression of his disapprobation he was pulled up by the Chief Secretary for Ireland. And he then wound up with some very interesting platitudes on the importance of individuals being the owners of their own houses. He was proceeding with a very able criticism of the Bill and he reached as far as the clause which made provision for the setting aside of leases. In 1889, after a deliberation extending over three years, a very influential Committee, which considered that entire question both with reference to England and Scotland as well as Ireland, presented a very voluminous and valuable report, in which they said that all that was required for the protection of leaseholders and lessees and other persons occupying the position of tenants in towns was that a Bill should be introduced which in the case of future lettings would confer upon any person occupying his house for business the right to obtain compensation for improvement, and that that should be extended to existing improvements, but only in the case of improvements made with the written consent of the landlord. In that recommendation there was not a particle of confiscation. There was no element whatever of violation of contract, but there was hardly a line in the present Bill which did not either involve a violation of existing contracts or contemplate the future confiscation of property. Let them take even those clauses which had met with a certain measure of support from the right hon. Gentleman—Clauses 1 to 4. This Bill was in every way superior to any of its predecessors because it was drafted in such a way that any ordinary person could understand it—and he thought that was largely due to the fact that a large share in the drafting was taken by the Member for North Dublin. What did those first four clauses contemplate? They provided that in the case of all existing leases—not future leases, as was recommended by the Committee of 1889—the lessee on quitting his holding was to be entitled to compensation for improvements made before the passing of the Act. This section of the Bill was to a large extent a direct interference with and violation of existing contracts. Speaking for himself, he might say that had a Bill been introduced, following out recommendations of the Committee of 1889, he would most heartily have supported it, because it would have involved no violation of contract and no confiscation of property. He came to the fifth clause. That proposed that in the case of every and any tenant in any part of Ireland, whether in a town or outside, who had any sort of premises that he occupied, either as a residence or as business premises, or partly one and partly the other, even although he was only a weekly tenant, should be entitled, when he was put out, to compensation for disturbance. That compensation was vested on the most extraordinary scale it was possible to conceive, and from what suggestion it was derived he could not fathom. If a man held a house under the Bill at a rent of £50 a year, he would be entitled to get a maximum of £500, but if he held it at a rent of £51 a year, the maximum was cut down to £256, which was almost half. He did not understand that. He saw no sense in it. It was neither logic nor sense, and it was impossible to say why that arrangement was proposed. Clause 6 was such an extraordinary clause that he really thought there must be some curious omission in the drafting of it, because it provided that any man who had been evicted within six or ten years before the date of the passing of the Bill should be entitled to compel the landlord to sell his interest to him as well as to buy up all the intervening interests.

MR. CLANCY said the right hon. Gentleman had not read the Bill. If he looked at the definition of tenant he would find that it contemplated a person in actual occupation.

*MR. JAMES CAMPBELL said that, in that case, with all respect to his hon.

and learned friend, Clause 6 was nonsense. Under the clause, any person who within the last ten years had been required to give up possession of his holding could, although he had been out of possession for nine years, buy up all the intervening estates and interests, including, he supposed, the estate of the lessee who had taken his place in the holding. The section was unintelligible and unworkable. Another extraordinary thing about the clause was that it compelled the landlord to sell to anyone of his tenants, but it gave no corresponding right to the landlord to compel the tenant to buy. Under the clause a man might have ten houses let to ten different tenants and one of those might compel the landlord to sell and thus spoil his property, but there was no provision enabling the landlord to compel his other nine tenants to buy. It was certainly the most extraordinary piece of one-sided legislation that he had ever known proposed. But the peculiarity of the clause did not stop there. The clause was supposed to be for the enfranchisement of lessees and the conversion of them into owners of fee simple. There was no provision, however, preventing lessees on the very day they became owners from letting to someone else, and themselves becoming much execrated landlords.

Mr. McVEIGH (Donegal, E.): Why not; it would be their own property?

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL said hon. Members complained of the hardship of a tenant being subject to rent and the caprice of the landlord, yet by this Bill the lessee who had been converted into an owner could sub-let and create as many interests as he liked. In Clause 6, Sub-section 7, there was another provision that would certainly bring in a prolific revenue to the members of the legal profession. That clause enabled any person who held under a lease within twenty years before the passing of the Act to go into a county court and to ask to have the lease set aside. A more unjust and unwarrantable proposition was never brought before an assembly of fair-minded men. The climax of absurdity was reached in Clause 9. That provided that if a sanitary authority had any cause of complaint on behalf of the tenant against a house, and issued a notice to have the house put in order, the tenant's liability for rent would cease. He could well understand how gladly that clause would be welcomed in slum quarters of Dublin and elsewhere.

Mr. CLANCY: Has the right hon. Gentleman read the clause, and does he think that a candid description?

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL said most certainly he had, and he would read it to the House.

> "When an order is made on the owner under Section 110 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, no rent shall be recoverable by the owner from the tenant, nor shall the tenant be liable to ejectment, as from the date of the complaint on which the order is made unless and until compliance is made with such order."

A tenant would then be at liberty to put the sanitary arrangements of his house deliberately out of order to avail himself of the advantages of this clause.

An Hon. MEMBER: That would be malicious damage to property.

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL agreed, but said he had known it done again and again, when the relations between landlord and tenant had been strained. The clause placed a premium on his conduct, because that tempted a weekly tenant in a very humble position to escape his liability. All he had to do was to make a complaint to a sanitary authority, and from that moment his rent was suspended until the sanitary officer made an inspection of the premises.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that tenants in all towns of Ireland have to give six months' rent in advance?

*MR. JAMES CAMPBELL said he was aware that in many towns in Ireland the bulk of the poorer tenants were weekly tenants. All that these people would have to do in order to stay in their houses for a couple of months free of rent would be to bring in the sanitary authority upon some real or imaginary complaint, and from the moment that the sanitary officer served his notice the rent was tied up.

MR. CLANCY: In common honesty I ask the right hon. Gentleman to read the rest of the section.

*MR. JAMES CAMPBELL thought the House would see that it did not qualify in any way what he had said. The clause read on as follows—

> "Provided that, if such order is not complied with within the time limited thereby, the sanitary authority shall themselves forthwith execute such order and collect and continue to collect the rent from the tenant in the name of the owner until the cost of executing the order shall have been recouped."

Anyone who read that clause would see that his criticism still remained. In the first place notice to abate the nuisance had to be given by the sanitary authority. If this notice was not complied with an application had to be made to the Court for a compulsory order to abate, and it was only upon failure to comply with this order that the sanitary authority stepped in, and throughout these preliminary stages extending over many weeks, payment of rent was to be suspended. Clause 11 was also a very peculiar one, because it confined all the work under this Act to the county court judge, except where otherwise provided A large limited company, a bank, or an insurance company which might have a claim for or against them for £10,000, £15,000, or £20,000 for improvements executed upon their premises would have to go before the county court judge, and there was no right of appeal. Could anything be more unfair, absurd, or unreasonable? He came to the definition clause, which did not follow the recommendation of the Committee which reported in 1889 in favour of confining the operation of the Bill to premises used for business purposes, but extended it to all premises used for residential purposes. What protection did members of his profession, doctors, and rich merchants require? Surely they were quite competent to make their own bargains. Not only that, but they were also prevented from entering into any arrangement with their landlords that would be inconsistent with this Bill. He could have understood the clause had it been confined to persons who paid a very small rent, or held their property under a very peculiar tenancy, but why were these rich merchants, professional men, and well to do persons generally in all the cities and towns of Ireland to be prevented from making any bargain they liked with their landlords? Under this extraordinary Bill they were absolutely prevented from entering into any contract for a house, even a residence, which would be inconsistent with the clauses of the Bill. Further, the definition clause extended the operation of the Bill not merely to premises in cities and towns which were not used for business purposes, but to premises in any part of Ireland, whether in towns or not, which some used for residential or business purposes. The wayside inn, the village blacksmith, the clergyman, the doctor, came within the provisions of the Bill. It was a splendid vista of litigation for his profession, he admitted, but what a ludicrous travesty of an

Act of Parliament to bring in a Bill for the purpose of enabling the local doctor, or the local solicitor, or the parish clergyman, to come into Court with a claim for disturbance, or a claim for compensation for improvements. If the Bill had been confined to carrying out the two legitimate purposes which met with the approval of the Committee in 1889, which involved no principle of violation of contracts or confiscation of property, he for one would have been heartily glad to support it, but he thought the action of his hon. friends from Ulster, which had been so severely criticised by some hon. Members below the gangway, had met with the fullest justification by the speech delivered by the Attorney-General for Ireland.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): said his colleagues and he were anxious that the division should be taken, and it was practically impossible for him to give an answer to the speeches they had just heard. The Member for Dublin University had made the speech which was expected of him. It was the speech he had made during the whole of his political career on this subject, and there was nothing to be surprised at in it except the statement that if the Bill had carried out with proper safeguards the principle of compensation to tenants he should not have objected to it.

*MR. JAMES CAMPBELL: The hon. and learned Gentleman is unintentionally misrepresenting me. What I said was that if the Bill had been brought in to carry out the recommendations of the Committee of 1889, it would have had my support. The Bill of last year went beyond that.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said that the right hon. Gentleman had commented on the fact that the Bill of last year was more moderate, but he not only voted against that Bill in the House, but went up to the Committee and spent laborious days in obstructing it line by line.

*MR. JAMES CAMPBELL said that speaking from recollection, he believed not only did he not vote against the Bill of last year, but he actually was not in the House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said the right hon. Gentleman should not make a statement of that kind on mere recollection. He had the division list and would send it down to the right hon. Gentleman. He did vote against the Bill, and, what was more important, he deliberately obstructed it with the aid of one or two of his colleagues, and killed it. He confessed he had heard with great regret the speech of the Attorney-General. The right hon. and learned Gentleman said he would vote in favour of the Bill, but went on to criticise almost every detail. The Bill as presented to the House was nothing new. It had been before the House again and again in its essential principles, and had always received the support of the Liberal Party.

*MR. CHERRY: What I said was that I would vote in favour of the Bill because I was in favour of compensation for improvements, which I take to be the main principle of the Bill.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said the Bill was brought in in 1904 in a form in some respects more extreme than the Bill of this year. They were told that the Bill of last year would have had the enthusiastic support of all the Members of the Government, but they could not support the present Bill, because it was more extreme. The Bill of 1904 was more extreme than the present Bill, and the whole Liberal Party voted for it, including the Prime Minister, whose absence he now regretted. The speech of the Attorney-General was entirely confined to Committee points. The essential principles of the Bill were, first, the principles of compensation for improvements to town tenants. Was there a man on the Liberal Front Bench opposed to that? The second principle was that there should be a system, with proper provisions and safeguards, of leasehold enfranchisement. Was not that a principle which commended itself to all? Compensation for disturbance was only an alternative which came in if the lessee would not carry out these provisions. These were the principles of the Bill. He asked for the support of the Liberal Members of the House on these principles and not on small Committee points. If the Bill did not carry out the intentions of its promoters in detail it could be amended in Committee. On these two principles he commended the Bill to the House, and he confidently asked for an overwhelming majority in its favour.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said he was sorry he had only a few moments in which to explain to the House the view he took of this Bill, but the comment which had just fallen from the hon. and learned Member for Waterford made it necessary he should say those few words. This was one of those very difficult cases where a Bill contained some provisions with which they heartily sympathised, and also some other provisions of which they disapproved. This was one of the most difficult cases with which a private Member had to deal; and it was exceptionally difficult when the Government had to consider it. One had to consider how much one was pledging one's self to. He had, however, come to the following conclusion. The first part of the Bill which dealt with compensation for improvements appeared to be in principle thoroughly right and sound. He voted for it before, and he hoped he should always vote for it. He would be glad to see it in England, and he hoped they would have a Bill of that kind for England before long. The second part of the Bill was Clause 5, which provided for compensation for disturbances, and this, he confessed, appeared to be entirely unworkable. He believed it was said by the Attorney-General that as proposed by the Bill, it would mean a system of fixing fair rents, and he thought the machinery would be very costly. He entirely dissociated himself from any approval on the part of the Government of the principle of fixing fair rents, or compensation for disturbance as proposed in the Bill. That principle as applied to agricultural holdings by the Act of 1881 was based on a different set of facts. The third part of the Bill dealt with leasehold enfranchisement. As far back as 1882 or 1883, the Liberal Party steadily supported the principle of leasehold enfranchisement. He supported it still, and in principle that part of the Bill had his hearty concurrence. He was bound to say, however, that the machinery provided was very ill chosen for the purpose. He thought it would also be to a large extent unworkable and that the Bill went a good deal beyond what was necessary or desirable. Having reviewed these successive principles of the Bill, he considered what their vote should be, balancing the good parts of the Bill against the bad. He gathered that the two principles desired to be established were the principles of compensation for improvements and leasehold enfranchisement. He was with the promoters of the Bill in principle on these matters, and therefore, having dissociated himself entirely from those details of the Bill which he understood hon. Members from Ireland were perfectly willing to throw into the crucible of Committee, in the hope that they would come out in a better form, and having dissociated himself from the principle of compensation for disturbance, he had come to the conclusion, seeing how often the question had been before the House, and that it had the hearty approval of the Government as regarded England and Scotland, that it would be a pity to lose a chance of passing a Bill dealing with an admitted grievance. He must make this observation with regard to the speech of the Member for Dublin University, that he treated the Bill as if it was altogether bad, and his criticisms were based just as much on the parts of the Bill the Government approved as those they disapproved. He therefore to a large extent dismissed the criticisms of the right hon. and learned Gentleman, though he agreed with the criticisms of detail passed by the Attorney-General for Ireland. He thought, therefore, that this was not a case in which the Government ought to endeavour to put any pressure on their supporters, or even to tender advice to them, because those who had heard the debate could form a judgment for themselves on the merits of the Bill, and of any defects it might have. Still, when he considered the importance of that part of the Bill which appeared to him to be good, and also the willingness which had been so aptly expressed by the hon. Member who had brought forward the Bill, he had come to the conclusion that for his part he should be able to give his vote in favour of the Second Reading. He hoped the Bill, when it went to Committee, would be put into a form in which the objections taken by the Attorney-General would be completely removed, and that it would have the effect of remedying a long standing grievance, and setting an example which he hoped would not be without result for England and Scotland.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said his attention had been called to the fact that the hon. Member named Campbell who voted against the Bill of last year was not the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dublin University. He therefore apoligised to the right hon. Gentleman for his mistake.

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL: I knew, of course, it was an unintentional mistake.

The House divided:—Ayes, 244; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 82.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)

Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire,N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn. James(Aberdeen
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn RichardKnight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Devlin CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Joens,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St. Pancras, E.)
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon.David
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal,E)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro')
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpton
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John(Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)

White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williamson, A.(ElginandNairn)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.Sir AlexF.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. H. M.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clarke,SirEdward(City London
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, CaptainJames(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Liddell, Henry
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Montgomery, H. H.
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos.Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C.E. Howard
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav. Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Charles Craig and Viscount Castlereagh.

Bill read a second time.

MR. McKILLOP moved that the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law."—(*Mr. M'Killop.*)

Debate arising.

And, it being after Five of the clock, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

GROUND GAME BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGNERS.

Order [14th May] for presenting an Address for a Return relative thereto read, and discharged; and, instead thereof—

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (CONTRACTS).

Return ordered, "of all Contracts made in the United Kingdom for manufactured articles by the several Government Departments in the year ending the 31st day of March, 1906, either with contractors outside the United Kingdom or with contractors or agents who obtained the Articles from Abroad (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 315, of 1905)."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at seventeen minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 21st May, 1906.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT, 1897.

His Majesty's answer to the Address of the 11th instant, delivered by the Lord Chamberlain (*V. Althorp*), and read as follows:—

"I have received your Address, praying that I will make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to your Lordships' House on the 22nd February last.

"I will comply with your advice."

Several Lords took the oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) [H.L.].

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2); London and South Western Railway; London County Buildings; Peterborough Gas; Southampton Gas.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Standing Orders Committee, Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Poole Corporation Water Bill ought to be dispensed with.

Read and agreed to

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [H.L.]. Commons' Amendments considered, and agreed to

Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2.) Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee not to sit again till Wednesday next.

Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [H.L.]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [H.L]; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [H.L.]; Rugby Subordinate School Bill [H.L.]; now Rugby Lower School Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill; Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners.

North Metropolitan Tramways Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

CHANNEL FERRY RAILWAY AND QUAY BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Lord TWEEDMOUTH): My Lords, I wish to enter a caveat with regard to this Bill. Last year a Bill was brought forward by the same promoters which proposed to carry out certain works in Dover Harbour in connection with their scheme. That Bill did not proceed, because objection was taken to it. The Bill this year does not propose any works at all, but merely to get powers to make agreements and to raise money for certain works. What these works are is undefined. Indeed, the Bill as a whole is extremely vague. The Admiralty do not desire to put any difficulties in the way of the legitimate improvement of the channel traffic between this country and France. At the same time, they have to reserve to themselves the most complete powers over Dover Harbour, which was constructed at vast public cost for the benefit of the British Navy. Consequently this Bill has been considerably altered during its passage through the House, and a clause has been inserted which reserves entirely the naval harbour and prevents any works being done within that at all; and, so far as the commercial harbour is concerned, it requires the consent of the Admiralty, of the Board of Trade, and of the Dover Harbour Board to any works that may be proposed before they are brought before Parliament. I think that with those provisos there can be no harm in the Bill becoming law. I only say these few words in order to make it quite clear that this is no mere *brutum fulmen*, but that the Admiralty do mean to keep a most careful watch on what is being done under the Bill.

*LORD WEARDALE: My Lords, as I happen to be interested in this proposal, perhaps I may be pardoned if I make a few remarks with regard to it. The promoters of this scheme, which is by no means a novel one, have approached its solution on several occasions from many standpoints, but have invariably found themselves in difficulties with one authority or another. During the last session of Parliament a very large sum of money was spent in depositing plans, in obtaining expert evidence, and in all the different developments necessary for the promotion of a Bill in Parliament, but at the last moment the Board of Admiralty of the day put their veto on the Bill and it did not proceed. Taught by that experience, the promoters of this Bill have, as the noble Lord has explained, proceeded in a somewhat different manner. The Bill simply enables them to enter into agreements with various constituted authorities in order to carry out this scheme; and when the Board of Admiralty signified their desire to have some further guarantees than were presented in the original Bill, the promoters at once intimated that they were ready to accept any clause the Board of Admiralty suggested which gave them complete control of any works that might be carried out in connection with this scheme. They accepted, without the slightest amendment, the proposals sent to them by the Board of Admiralty. I am glad that now an agreement has been arrived at, and I hope your Lordships will assent to the Third Reading of the Bill.

On Question, Bill read 3ª, and passed.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious instruction:

Of teachers in schools at Nelson, etc.;

Of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Nelson, etc.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND.)

Thirty-third Annual Report by the Accountant for Scotland to the Scotch Education Department.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3589. Japan (Hakadate).

No. 3590. Spain (Bilbao).

No. 3591. Honduras (Omoa and Puerto Cortes).

No. 3592. Greece (The Cyclades).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Account of the receipt and expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act, from January 1st to December 31st, 1905. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

THE TORPEDO-BOAT DISASTER.

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH: My Lords, seeing the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty in his place, I wish to ask him a question with respect to the recent torpedo-boat disaster. It is reported in the newspapers that the vessel capsized. I can understand a vessel capsizing under the press of canvas, but it seems to me strange that a torpedo-boat, with no mast or sails, should capsize. I should be glad if the noble Lord could tell us exactly what happened.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, we have asked for full particulars, and of course an inquiry has been ordered; but no information has yet arrived. As a matter of fact, the torpedo-boat was being towed, and the idea is that probably there was a heavy cross sea on and that she was being towed too fast. But there is no information yet to hand.

Viscount SIDMOUTH: Did the boat really capsize?

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: We do not know exactly what did happen. That information is being asked for.

SHIPPING AND DISCHARGING FEES.

Lord MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the shipping and discharging fees which British seaman are required to pay at British Consulates; and to ask His Majesty's Government whether they will consider the desirability of abolishing these charges; also, whether they are prepared to furnish a Return showing a full account of the total shipping and discharging fees paid by British seamen at the leading ports on the Continent from which British vessels are constantly trading.

The object I have in view in putting these questions is to ventilate a grievance which is felt by both officers and seamen in the mercantile marine. Though the sum paid in respect of signing on and signing off, in each case 1s., is a small one, it must be remembered that some of these vessels make a large number of voyages in the year, and that when the amount is totalled up it constitutes a great hardship on men whose pay is not very large. I understand that these fees do not go to the Consulate as they used to, but are paid to the Treasury. These signing on and discharging fees were done away with in the United Kingdom some years ago. I would remind your Lordships that our merchant seaman have absolutely no chance of exercising the franchise or of expressing their views in Parliament; and I do think it is rather hard that they should be compelled to pay these charges. I beg to ask the Question standing in my name.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord Fitzmaurice): My Lords, the matter which the noble Lord has brought to the attention of your Lordships' House is one which affects three Departments—the Board of Trade, the Treasury, and the Foreign Office; and although technically it is under the control of the Foreign Office in reality it affects even more the other two Departments I have named. I have, of course, consulted those Departments in regard to the answer which I am about to give, and for the moment I am representing their views as well as those of the Foreign Office. The fees referred to are levied under Order in Council in pursuance of the Consular Salaries and Fees Act, 1891, and they could be abolished by Order in Council under that Act. The fees represent a service done to shipping, as the fact of the engagement and discharge of men being effected before the consul gives some protection against imposition or desertion respectively, and, of course, against crimping. The consul has to warn the master and crew against any stipulations in the agreement which he considers contrary to Act of Parliament. The fee charged for this service is 2s., half of which is generally paid by the seamen and half by the master. In regard to the granting of the Return asked for, the Foreign Office cannot tell the amount of these particular fees without reference to His Majesty's Consuls, who would have to go through their accounts item by item for that purpose. This would entail much labour on a limited staff already very fully occupied with important duties. I have no authority to say that the Board of Trade are prepared to abandon the levy of these fees; nor can this matter be dealt with except with the consent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I will call the attention of the Departments concerned to this question.

IMPORTATION OF STORE CATTLE.

LORD HENEAGE rose to move to resolve, "That in the opinion of this House it is injurious to the agricultural interests of England and Ireland, as well as to the stability of the dead meat and live stock trade now carried on under the guarantee of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896, in the interest of the consumers, that this country should be kept in doubt as to the future policy of His Majesty's Government on the question of retaining the restrictions prohibiting the importation of store cattle into this country from Canada, notwithstanding the decided opinion of the Minister of Agriculture and the experts of the Board of Agriculture against any repeal of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896."

The noble Lord said: My Lords, I believe that the Motion I have placed on the Paper will meet with the approval of all agriculturists in this country. There is a very strong desire to strengthen the hands of the noble Lord the President of the Board of Agriculture after his sympathetic speech the other day; but there has also been considerable anxiety caused by the "go-as-you-please" speech of the Prime Minister in another place. I do not, perhaps, take such a serious view of that speech as some of my noble friends. I am rather inclined, if I may use a racing expression, to say that it was a hedging transaction in view of certain liabilities that the Member for Stirling Burghs had incurred during his campaign in that county, and that he required time. I am very sorry the speech was made, because it has cast doubt over the intentions of the noble Lord the Minister for Agriculture; and I hope the debate which will take place on my Motion today will give the Prime Minister and the Government a gentle tonic.

I move this Resolution with the definite object of supporting the Minister for Agriculture, and I cannot think that a vote of confidence in the Minister who is responsible for the Department of Agriculture can be construed into a vote of censure on His Majesty's Government. This is not a political question, it is entirely a business question; and one-half of the present House of Commons and of the Irish Members are in favour of a continuity of policy in this matter. What is the position at the present moment? My noble friend Lord Carrington, at the end of his speech in reply to the Question put to him the other day by Lord Jersey, said that he was unable to state what the ultimate decision of the Government might be, but he could say that, so far as his own personal conviction was concerned, having examined the whole case with an open mind, he thought it would be undertaking a grave responsibility if the restrictions at present in force were suddenly withdrawn.† I entirely agree with him. I also know that he took the greatest possible trouble to go into the case, and that he did so without any bias whatever.

But the next day, unfortunately, there was a Bill under discussion in another place. I know nothing of that Bill, but a Scottish Radical Member of Parliament said it was backed by professional gentlemen, by lawyers, by stockbrokers, and whatnots; it was backed neither by agriculturists nor farmers. I should think that, of all people in the world, the people who backed that Bill desired some information from the Board of Agriculture, but the representative of that Department sat silent. Not one word was said by him, and no reference was made in the debate to the decision which had been come to by my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture. I think that is a serious matter, because, whilst the Prime Minister spoke at great length, he did not profess to represent the Government, but only his own views as Member for Stirling Burghs. I am not going to allude to that speech, which was a very lengthy one. I do not think there would be much advantage in referring to it, but I do wish to quote a few words which the Prime Minister used at the end of his speech.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said that the Act of 1896 was a measure which they knew to be distasteful to the majority of the people of Canada, and which really cast a stigma on the agriculture of Canada. I must say I think that is a most absurd statement. We had the day before a statement made to us in this House by the responsible Minister for the Department, who said that Canada was perfectly ready to accept any decision to which we came. Then the Prime Minister told his supporters to vote as they pleased. For the present I suppose the cattle in this country are safe from disease, but we want something more definite than a go-as-you-please policy with regard to so vital a question. No one except a few graziers, butchers, and shipowners, and a certain whatnot association in Glasgow, desires to have the present Act repealed. It would be prejudicial to the farmers and injurious to a large number of people who are shareholders in those concerns which now deal with the importation of dead meat and also of live cattle to be killed at the ports.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 655.

There has never been, I believe, during the last twenty years the slightest difference of opinion at the Board of Agriculture that the only way in which to keep disease from our shores is by putting restrictions on the importation of cattle, and I venture to say that ever since those restrictions were first imposed —I believe it was in 1892—there has been no difference of opinion whatever between any of the Ministers who have administered the Department of Agriculture. My noble friend the present Minister for Agriculture is also in agreement with them. It so happens that we have in this House two noble Lords who have held the position of President of the Board of Agriculture—my noble friends Lord Onslow and Lord Burghclere —and I challenge them to contradict what I have said on this matter. There has been absolute continuity of policy, no matter on which side of the House the President of that Department has sat. I venture to hope that some Member of the Front Opposition Bench will get up and state what were the views of Mr. Walter Long and Mr. Ailwyn Fellows when they were at that office. I am quite certain that they would agree that the present situation of doubt is very detrimental to everyone concerned.

There may be some noble Lords present who are not aware how this question originated. This is not a new question. It was on April 17 last year that Lord Grey enclosed, without a word of advice on his part that they should be acted upon, some Resolutions on the subject from Canada; and Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, who was then Secretary of State for the Colonies, very wisely sent the letter to the Board of Agriculture with a request that they should write him a memorandum upon it. On August 17 Mr. Lyttelton, after having consulted the Board of Agriculture and also his colleagues in the Cabinet, wrote to Lord Grey that—

> "His Majesty's Government have given the fullest consideration to the representations made to them on the subject of the embargo on the importation of live cattle into this country, but much regret that they feel themselves unable to propose to Parliament any Amendment of the existing law."

That was only nine months ago. Are we now to go back upon a decision fairly taken at that time? I know it may be said that there has been a general election since, but surely we are not going to have a mushroom mandate brought forward now to say that this law is to be repealed. I believe there was no feeling in the country at the last election with regard to this question.

But even supposing Ministers say that they are not bound by what was done by a Minister in another Administration to which they were politically opposed, at any rate we have this memorandum, and it is a memorandum that ought to be studied by every one who takes an interest in this question, and by no one more than by the present Prime Minister. I will quote a few lines only, but they are very pertinent to the present question. The Department said, at the very commencement of the memorandum—

> "Experience has shown that the existing statutory requirement that all cattle imported into this country shall be slaughtered at the port of landing is no obstacle to the development and maintenance of a large and valuable trade."

But it is a great deal more. A large amount of capital has been invested in companies for the importation of dead meat into this country and for cattle to be slaughtered at the ports. It is a very extensive business, and at the present time there are millions of money invested in it. If the ports are to be opened and live cattle permitted to come in and to be sent all over the country, these investors must be very large sufferers and will lose considerably.

There is a very curious fact with regard to this question. When the restrictions were first made no country more than Argentina expressed strong annoyance at them, and they even went so far as to say that so long as the restrictions were maintained they would not buy any cattle or sheep from this country. But what is the case now? They now say that they are perfectly clear in their own minds that the restrictions were right, and they do not want this country to repeal them. That is not very surprising, because at the present moment Argentina has a very large trade in cattle, and it is also a large importer of pedigree stock from this country. As president of one of the large pedigree societies, I know myself that they have given us a direct warning that if this Act is repealed, we need not expect that they will buy any more of our red shorthorn bulls.

I will refer for a moment to the case of Canada. What has Canada to complain of? Before 1892, the year in which slaughtering at the ports was first required, the imports from Canada never exceeded 120,459, and that was in the year 1890, with a declared value of £1,892,298. In 1893, the first year after the restrictions had been ordered, the number of cattle increased to 190,812 with a declared value of £3,315,762. We imported, in 1904, 146,598 cattle with a declared value of £2,547,451, and in the following year 148,718 at a declared value of £2,491,150. This is very curious, because you will see that in the last year there was a large increase in the number of cattle imported, but the declared value was less. Why? Because under these restrictions meat had decreased in value in this country. Consumers, therefore, have nothing to complain of. The memorandum also stated—and I quote this on account of what was said by the Prime Minister—that the existing law does not cast any stigma on Canadian cattle. It goes on to point out that the same law holds good in our other Colonies, and in the United States, and also in foreign countries, and it warns us that the experience of Argentina in 1900, and more recently of the United States in 1902, has shown how suddenly and unexpectedly foot and mouth disease may make its appearance in a country, irrespective of the maintenance of effective veterinary organisation.

What would be the result of a recurrence of disease in this country? We can all remember the state of things that obtained when we had cattle disease throughout this country. Who were the greatest sufferers? Why, the farmers, and especially the small farmers in whom my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture takes such great interest.

They suffered not only as producers, but as consumers and also as ratepayers. The consumers themselves, as a general body, suffered also. They suffered in their rates and also from the inconvenience of the necessary regulations. What have the consumers in this country to complain of? Meat has decreased in price considerably. There is now a cheap and sufficient supply of store cattle as well as of fat stock slaughtered in the ports, and there is a large trade in dead meat carried on under the guarantee of the Act of 1896. You could buy as much store cattle as you liked this year at Lincoln fair for £16 and £16 10s. apiece, and as many yearlings as you liked from £10. I do not think anybody wants to get cattle much cheaper than that.

There is one other point to which I would allude. We hear people talk about veterinary certificates, In my opinion veterinary certificates neither on the other side of the water nor on this side are of the slightest use. Disease is germinated on the voyage owing to cattle being placed in unnatural positions on board ship, and it does not show itself at once. It may be weeks before it is observed, and the cattle may have been sent all over the country before it is realised that they are diseased. I will leave other noble Lords to speak for Ireland and Scotland, and even for other parts of England. I can only speak definitely for my own county, and there is only one voice there, and that is for upholding the present restrictions. I beg to move the Motion standing in my name, and to ask His Majesty's Government to give renewed confidence to all classes concerned in agriculture and the existing meat trade, by declaring their intention not to allow the restrictions to be rescinded, and not to yield to pressure either from within or from without this country, but loyally to support the Minister for Agriculture, and to preserve the United Kingdom from the recurrence of cattle disease.

Moved to resolve, "That in the opinion of this House, it is injurious to the agricultural interests of England and Ireland, as well as to the stability of the dead meat and live stock trade now carried on under the guarantee of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896, in the interest of the consumers, that this country should be kept in doubt as to the future policy of His Majesty's Government on the question of retaining the restrictions prohibiting the importation of store cattle into this country from Canada, notwithstanding the decided opinion of the Minister of Agriculture against any repeal of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896."—(*Lord Heneage.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, whatever opinions we may hold on this important question we must all agree that my noble friend who has moved this Resolution has done so with a thoroughly practical knowledge of the subject. Representing as he does the views of agriculturists in this country, the noble Lord has appealed, I think very justly, to the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture to give us some definite statement as to what are the intentions of His Majesty's Government on the subject of the importation of foreign cattle into this country.

The noble Lord told the House that this question is being viewed with great anxiety by the agricultural community. I do not think any noble Lord on the Government Benches will deny that statement. What we agriculturists want His Majesty's Government to do is to give us some definite lead and not leave us absolutely in the dark, as we are at present, as to their policy and intention. My noble friend quoted from the speeches of the Prime Minister in another place and of the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture in your Lordships' House, and while I fully recognise that to a certain extent they sympathise with the views we hold, they absolutely decline to give us any specific reply as to the views of the Government. In this state of uncertainty it becomes necessary to press for a statement from a representative of the Cabinet. I trust that when the noble Earl replies to-day he will say something definite which we agriculturists can really understand, and which will enable us to make up our minds as to the course of action we shall pursue in the future.

I wish to say a few words on the very important position which the breeding and rearing of cattle holds in this country. I am told authoritatively that the value of the herds in this country at the present moment is no less a sum than £200,000,000. That sounds a gigantic figure, but the immunity from disease which the country has enjoyed for some years past owing to the prohibition of live imports has induced large investments in stock, and naturally there is great anxiety among those who have invested their capital as to their position in the future. My noble friend, in the course of his remarks, mentioned Argentina. I can speak from personal experience of the prices given in Argentina for pedigree cattle and stock of the highest kind. Perhaps I may be excused for mentioning that a three years old pedigree bull, winner of Royal and other prizes, which I sold to a Scottish breeder, went to Argentina last autumn at the record price of 3,600 guineas. With this and many other instances of cattle fetching very high prices, the anxiety of breeders is natural when they remember the ravages of disease introduced by foreign importation and heavy losses and expense incurred in getting rid of the scourge.

We all regret the absence from the benches opposite of the noble Earl Lord Spencer, who was a member of the Commission appointed to inquire into the cattle plague which raged in 1865. I cannot but think that the noble Earl, if he were in your Lordships' House to-day, would agree with the views we hold on this subject. Those who can carry their minds back to 1865 will remember that the first case of cattle plague appeared at Lambeth in June of that year. By October it had spread over no fewer than twenty-nine counties in England, and there were 11,000 cases of foot-and-mouth disease. It was then that the Commission was appointed of which Lord Spencer was a prominent member, and that Commission declared that by the end of the following January there were no less than 120,000 cases, while in Cheshire alone there were nearly 18,000 cases. Ought this not to be a warning to us to exercise the most stringent measures in preventing the recurrence of such an outbreak? The Report of the Commission stated that the animals which were most liable to attack were the better-bred cattle, and consequently the more valuable.

The last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease took place five years ago, and that was caused by infected cattle from Argentina consigned for slaughter at the port. I think there is frequently a misapprehension in the minds of people who are not thoroughly acquainted with agriculture as to the difference between pleuro-pneumonia and foot-and-mouth disease, the fact being that in the case of the former slaughter at the port is effective, whereas in the case of the latter it is no guarantee if persons have been in contact with the animals. If the animals of five years ago had had access to the country instead of being slaughtered at the ports the disease would have spread enormously. Even as it was, great expense was incurred in stopping the disease; and during that time the live stock trade of this country naturally received a considerable set back I quote that more recent case as justifying the apprehension which is felt that if the present regulations are relaxed great danger will ensue.

Let me say a few words with regard to the policy of other countries in this matter. Every other country has found it necessary to exercise special care with regard to the importation of cattle from foreign countries, and their regulations are of a most stringent character. No animals are allowed to be landed at all until after they have been in quarantine for from six to ten weeks and have also stood the tubercular test. Let us take Canada. Not even the highest-bred pedigree cattle from Great Britain are allowed to be landed without a quarantine of forty days and also having to stand the tubercular test. Therefore, if Canada is so careful and makes such stringent laws with regard to the importation of cattle even of this character into that country, surely we ought not to be blamed for being equally careful with regard to the importation of cattle into this country. Canada, we know, is a huge country with vast tracts of grazing land for the feeding of flocks and herds, and I cannot but think that it is absolutely impossible, in a country of that size, for any number of veterinary surgeons to be absolutely responsible to the Canadian Government for the cattle being free from disease of any sort. We know that only four years ago foot-and-mouth disease was developed among cattle in some of the Eastern States of America, and with the tendency of farmers to migrate with their stock across the Canadian frontier it is almost impossible to allay all apprehension of infection.

I read with great interest a speech delivered a short time ago by a leading Scotsman at a meeting convened at Perth. Speaking in support of a resolution against the repealing or altering of the Act of 1896, he related a little incident that came within his own personal knowledge. He said that in 1899 there was a serious outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia in Kincardine, and the admission of cattle from that part was temporarily forbidden. But one little calf was smuggled into the county in a covered cart at night, and from that calf alone arose an outbreak which cost the local authorities of Aberdeen £10,000 to stamp out. The speaker put it to the meeting that if in the county of Aberdeen, with an efficient police force and with only one means of access to the district, and that over a small bridge, could not keep out disease, how could the Canadians, with such an enormous frontier, attempt to do so? This shows how careful we should be with regard to the admission of cattle into this country from Canada.

The Irish point of view must also be remembered, for Ireland depends to a very great extent on cattle rearing and breeding. I believe there are several hundred thousand holdings in Ireland which are devoted to the cultivation of cattle stock, and which would be absolutely devastated if anything like disease were allowed to enter the country. Let me read a statement made by Mr. O'Brien in the House of Lords.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: In the House of Commons.

*THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Well, perhaps some day he will be here. Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr. O'Brien drew attention to the fact that a great number of tenants in Ireland relied for their subsistence more or less on the breeding and rearing of cattle. He said—

> "Every judicial rent fixed since 1894 had been based on this legislative security from disease."†

Under the recent legislation passed by the Party to which I have the honour to belong, the late occupiers of holdings are now their owners, and there is, therefore, no question of the landlord coming down and helping the tenant in the event of serious loss occurring. To a large owner the loss of one or two cows may not be a serious matter, but it would be of very vital and serious moment to a small holder.

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† See (4) *Debates* clv., 927.

I have ventured to put forward, to the best of my ability, the reasons why, in my opinion, it is absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Government to speak in no uncertain terms. As has been pointed out by the noble Lord who moved the Resolution now before the House, there are a certain number of agriculturists and others who wish to see the present state of affairs altered, but I think that the number is small and consists of breeders who buy and fatten stock and who do not rely on the rearing and breeding of cattle for their livelihood. My noble friend pointed out, by the figures he quoted, that they are at the present moment suffering no hardship. They can buy cheaply and feed cheaply, and, from the point of view of the feeder who buys only to fatten, I cannot see how he will be injured by the maintenance of the present system. I go still further, and say that if you yield to the wishes of these men, and if by any unforeseen calamity you have a recurrence of disease, you will have again to impose the burden of a huge expenditure of money on the taxpayers and ratepayers of the country to wipe it out.

This question is not a political one. We all wish to benefit the agricultural community; we all wish to avoid disease and to be guided by our experience in the past. No question of protection in the fiscal sense is involved; it is the protection of our flocks and herds from danger that is at stake. I therefore urge the noble Earl, in the interets of this great industry, to state that the Government intend to continue in force the present regulations. I do not wish to put courage into His Majesty's Government, but I do appeal to them to recognise that this go-as-you-please policy, this leave-it-to-you policy, is not conducive to the dignity of any Government responsible for the administration of the affairs of this country. Let them have the courage of their convictions.

I will give the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture an instance which I think should come home to him. I remember that, when six years ago my right hon. friend Mr. Walter Long was President of the Department of which the noble Earl is now the head, he considered that the country was in danger of hydrophobia. Without a moment's hesitation he, with the sanction of the Government of which he was a member, introduced the muzzling order. The denunciations that were heaped upon Mr. Long and the attacks that were made upon him, will be remembered by your Lordships, but I venture to say that there is no conscientious man who does not realise that by his determination Mr. Walter Long eventually succeeded in stamping out hydrophobia. Let me commend that policy to the noble Earl. Let him take his courage in his hand like Mr. Walter Long, and, defying unpopularity among a certain section of his party, act in the interests of the community as a whole.

*LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords we have listened to two very interesting speeches from noble Lords who are themselves practical agriculturists and well qualified to speak on this particular subject, and they have impressed upon your Lordships in strong terms both the importance and the value of our great agricultural industry, and also the necessity of keeping that industry free from the danger of contagious disease. I am certain that that is the unanimous feeling in all parts of the House, and no less so among members of His Majesty's Government. I do not wish to enter into any controversial subject, but I would point out to my noble friend who has just sat down that when he quoted the great outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1865 as an instance why the present restrictions in the case of Canadian cattle should be retained he took an instance which is in no way relevant to the subject under discussion, because the Act of 1896 was aimed at pleuro-pneumonia and pleuro-pneumonia alone. My noble friend in a subsequent portion of his speech illustrated that by pointing out that only five years ago, under this very Act which, according to him, is to keep out every sort of disease from this country, foot-and-mouth disease was still introduced, notwithstanding that slaughter at the ports took place. As I have said, the Act requiring slaughter at the ports was directed against pleuro-pneumonia and pleuro-pneumonia alone, and it is still possible for such ravaging diseases as rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease to be introduced under the present regulations.

On a previous occasion when we were discussing this somewhat vexed question your Lordships were good enough to allow me to express my views at some length upon it, and I had hoped that I should not have been called upon to address the House this afternoon; but there are a few further points to which I should like to be allowed to refer. In the first place, I should like to point out that there is no intimation of any proposal on the part of His Majesty's Government to repeal the Act of 1896. On the contrary, my noble friend Lord Carrington, who is responsible for the great Department of Agriculture, has on several occasions given us hopes, if not absolute assurances, that the present, at any rate, is not, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, an opportune moment for repealing that Act. But when noble Lords opposite assert that this Act is to be as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians and that not a word of it must be changed, that is going too far.

The Act of 1896 was, if I may call it so, an administrative Act; that is to say, it stereotyped an Order of the Board of Agriculture which had been made in 1892 ordering the slaughter at the ports of Canadian cattle. That Order was made because there seemed a reasonable fear of the introduction of pleuro-pneumonia into this country at that moment, and, incidentally, by stereotyping that Order, it has been brought about by the Act of 1896 that no further supply of store cattle from any part of the world at any time can be brought into this country. But it is quite conceivable—I hope it is quite improbable—that it might in the future be necessary, in the interests, not only of agriculturists, but of the country, that some accidentally diminished stock of cattle in this country should be replenished from abroad. Another occasion might occur. We might be on the eve of a great maritime war, rendering it necessary to import into the country immense quantities of store cattle in order to secure the food supply of the people, and there are, doubtless, other reasons which might render the repeal or modification of this Act necessary in the opinion of the Government; therefore to ask His Majesty's Government to give an unqualified pledge that under no circumstances will they touch the Act of 1896 is, I venture to think, to ask them to do something beyond the bounds of reason or necessity.

The apprehension in the minds of the noble Lord who moved the Motion now before the House and of the noble Marquess opposite—an apprehension which, to a certain degree, I myself have shared—seems to have arisen from the introduction of a Bill by a private Member in the House of Commons with the object of reintroducing into this country store cattle from Canada; but, though that Bill is still technically before the House of Commons, I think I may say that there is no chance whatever of its passing into law. I may at once add that had I been a Member of the House of Commons when that Bill was brought forward I should have voted against it, and I will tell your Lordships why. That Bill contains, it is true, a clause restoring to the Minister of Agriculture the power he had before the Act of 1896, namely, of admitting store cattle or ordering them to be slaughtered at the ports; but everybody knows that the intention of the promoters of that Bill is to procure the instant admission to this country of Canadian stores; they have always held that Canada is free from disease, and the country generally would expect admission of Canadian stores to follow the passing of the Bill; and therefore you are practically imposing on the House of Commons an administrative and executive act which should be left entirely to the Minister of Agriculture. Parliament is of course supreme and if the Minister of Agriculture is wrong, if he is inefficient or weak, Parliament can call upon him to resign or defeat the Government of which he is a prominent Member; but I think Parliament is the worst body to be entrusted with the performance of such executive acts as these.

Anyone who has had to administer the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, or similar Acts, knows perfectly well that everybody is united in a general desire that our country should be free from cattle disease. But when you go down to a special locality and impose the restrictions necessary to keep disease out, it is marvellous how in that locality reasons are found for contending that the disease is not quite so bad as it might be, and that the regulations are more drastic than the occasion requires. In the House of Commons the localities which are anxious to import Canadian store cattle are very efficiently and even illustriously represented. The Members who represent those localities very properly voice the feelings of their constituents that these restrictions should be taken off, and therefore, with all submission, I hold that the House of Commons is not the proper body to which these delicate and judicial duties should be entrusted. They should be left to the Minister for Agriculture, whose business it is to protect the general interests of the country. That is the main reason why I objected to the Act of 1896, and the Bill now brought in to admit Canadian cattle is, I venture to think, the direct outcome of that Act. For it was obvious, and I pointed it out at the time, that when reaction set in and the opportunity arrived, those who desired the admission of Canadian stores would endeavour to legislate for their admission in as wholesale a fashion as you had legislated for their exclusion; and that the Government of the day might be forced to take off the embargo on possibly insufficient grounds. That danger was one of my principal objections to Mr. Long's Act.

Now I will give another reason why I should vote against the Bill at present before the House of Commons. Suppose that Bill became law, it is possible that the next day my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture might find it absolutely necessary to put on the restrictions which the Act of Parliament had practically taken off. For although Canada may be free from pleuro-pneumonia at the present moment, it might yet be the means of introducing disease from other countries which are contiguous. I remember that when I was responsible for the administration of the Board of Agriculture we had a similar case in Norway. A country may be free from disease, and yet, with a large and extended frontier, it may become the funnel by which disease is introduced into this country.

If the present Bill were to pass and arrangements were in consequence made for the bringing over and reception of Canadian store cattle, and afterwards my noble friend the Minister for Agriculture was obliged to prohibit those store cattle coming in, so as to keep out disease, the result would be to make confusion worse confounded and incidentally might bring financial loss upon farmers in Canada and at home who had on the faith of this Bill made arrangements for exporting or purchasing Canadian stores. But as I have said, we have had no intimation of any intention on the part of His Majesty's Government of repealing the Act of 1896. I am not a prophet, but I venture to think there is but a small chance of that ever taking place. I am perfectly certain, however, that the Bill to which I have alluded will not become law, and I have very considerable doubts whether any similar Bill is likely to pass the Legislature in years to come. On the other hand, I do not think you can ask His Majesty's Government to give an unqualified pledge that under no circumstances will they contemplate any alteration of any particular Act. I therefore venture to hope that my noble friend Lord Heneage will be satisfied when the President of the Board of Agriculture makes his statement; but if, unfortunately, he goes to a division I shall not be able to support him.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: My Lords, I did not take part in the debate on the former occasion when this subject was under discussion in your Lordships' House, because I thought we had received an assurance from the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture that might set at rest the doubts which then existed in the minds of some of your Lordships. If I remember aright, the noble Marquess the Leader of this House concluded his remarks, in replying to my noble friend the Leader of the Opposition, by saying that if he was not satisfied with what the Government had said on that occasion he would be satisfied in a very short time. I venture to think that my noble friend and those who sit on this side of the House have not been satisfied.

I was extremely glad to hear the statement by the noble Lord opposite who at one time occupied the position of President of the Board of Agriculture that he for one would not have supported the measure which was introduced in another place. But what fills the minds of agriculturists with alarm is the difficulty of ascertaining what exactly is the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards that Bill. My noble friend Lord Burghclere said that in every case of this kind each locality wanted to have exceptional treatment meted out to them. Unfortunately there are in the Cabinet at this moment three Ministers — the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for War— who represent constituencies which are in the condition to which my noble friend alluded, for they want exceptional legislation for themselves in the way of the removal of the embargo on Canadian stores. It is this fact which has produced in the minds of some of us who sit on this side of the House a fear lest the views of the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture should not be shared by his colleagues in the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister said he thought we ought to have much sympathy with what he called the nervousness expressed in some quarters as to the possibility of the introduction of disease. The "nervousness" to which the Prime Minister referred is not the nervousness of old ladies who see a mouse and run away. It is a very real and genuine nervousness which is felt by agriculturists as to the introduction, even by a pure accident, of disease among the herds of this country. I was President of the Board of Agriculture at the time when the Argentine Government gave the most complete assurance that there was no such thing as foot-and-mouth disease in Argentina; yet one of the first things I had to do, as President of that Department, was to order the destruction of a large number of cattle infected with foot-and-mouth disease on their voyage from Argentina to this country. There were thirty-one ships with cargoes of animals on board. Special precautions were exercised, and they were placed in a part of the wharf specially reserved for that purpose. The slaughtermen and all employed were provided with overall clothing, and each man on leaving was thoroughly fumigated. The hides and skins of the animals were treated in a similar manner, and the offal, heads, feet, and other portions were destroyed by fire. The vessels, before going into dock, were taken seven miles out to sea, where their temporary fittings were destroyed by fire and such portions of the ships as had been in contact with the animals were disinfected. Those were the precautions which it was necessary to adopt. I ask your Lordships to consider whether, if those precautions were necessary, it might not happen that by the pure accident of somebody escaping disinfection an extremely infectious disease might be carried to the flocks and herds of this country. I ask your Lordships whether it is safe to allow the slightest risk of the introduction of disease into this country. I have heard it said that there is a doubt whether there is any disease among the animals in Canada. I do not know whether or not there is disease among them, but I would point out that not longer ago than 1902 there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the New England States of America, from which, in the winter-time, animals from Canada have to pass. Between November, 1902, and May, 1903, 4,712 cattle in 244 herds in the New England States were found to be infected with foot and mouth disease. Therefore, I say there is a real and practical danger, when cattle from Canada have to come through these States to be shipped to this country, of disease being introduced here.

The whole of the agitation for the repeal of the existing restrictions is based on very slender grounds indeed. It proceeds from a small number of feeders in Norfolk and in the Eastern counties of Scotland, who undoubtedly purchased their stores in the years preceding 1891 at a very cheap rate. It does not at all follow that because they bought them cheap in those years they would buy them cheap to-day. There was a prejudice then against Canadian stores, and they were sold at a cheap rate; but if they came in now the price would soon approximate to that paid for stores in this country. It would, therefore, be of little advantage to them.

What would be the advantage to the consumer? An animal two or three years old landing here would be fattened in six months or so and, instead of the consumer being sold 10 cwt. of Canadian beef, he would be sold 12 cwt. of what would be called "prime Scotch." The animals would be finished off in Scotland, and the meat would be sold as prime Scotch. I presided over a Committee which was appointed to inquire into the question of the marking of foreign meat, and we had many cases of fraud brought to our notice. We were told of the case of a man who kept a famous Welsh mutton shop in the Strand. This trader sold some mutton to a gentleman who gave evidence before the Committee. He persisted that it was Welsh mutton until the purchaser proved that he knew better, and then he replied, "Oh, well, it's New South Welsh mutton." That is very much what would happen if these stores were allowed to come into this country. The Committee I have referred to recommended that no steps should be taken for marking foreign meat, because a large quantity of meat is imported into this country and sold at a cheap rate. If all that meat were marked and were known by the consumer to be obtainable at a very cheap rate the consumer would say he would have no more prime Scotch, but would have foreign meat at the price of foreign meat. Therefore the farmer would not have benefited by the marking of foreign meat.

But I want your Lordships to consider what a very small proportion these Canadian stores bear to the whole cattle trade of the country. There were never more than 50,000 or 60,000 imported into the country, and that is only 2 per cent. of the stores sold here in one year, and I ask your Lordships whether it is reasonable that in the interests of these few feeders we should run the risk of importing disease into the country. I hope the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture will assure us that the Government have no intention, notwithstanding what may have been said in another place, of giving countenance or support to such a Bill as has been introduced into the House of Commons, but that, on the other hand, they endorse the prayer which I hope they say every day of their lives, "Lead us not into temptation."

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, as I came down to the House to-night I met a gentleman who described himself as a candid friend, by which is meant a man who takes every opportunity of saying disagreeable things. He said he was glad to tell me that when I came down to your Lordships' House to-night I and the Government to which I belonged would get about the best dressing we had ever had in the course of our lives. I am bound to say that I have been most agreeably disappointed. There has not been one word in all the temperate speeches which the House has listened to to which I can take any possible exception; nor is there anything in the Motion that has been moved by the noble Lord below the gangway, save perhaps one or two words towards the end, to which I can take exception. The words I allude to are those referring to the experts of the Board of Agriculture as having expressed a decided opinion on this subject.

LORD HENEAGE: If my noble friend thinks those words ought not to be in, I will gladly omit them; but I referred, not to what has been said now, but to the memorandum to which I alluded and which has been published as a Parliamentary Paper.

*EARL CARRINGTON: All I have to take exception to is the insinuation that any members of the Civil Service have expressed any opinion one way or the other.

LORD HENEAGE: Then I withdraw the words.

*EARL CARRINGTON: My candid friend next asked me if I had read the Motion. I replied that I had, and he said "Don't you see that it is a vote of censure on you and the Front Bench?" A vote of censure is a disagreeable thing, and it often has somewhat troublesome and expensive consequences. I was therefore very glad that in almost his first words the noble Lord who moved the Motion told the House that it was not a vote of censure. In fact, my noble friend Lord Heneage wrote to me to the effect that the Motion was not in any way to be considered a Party one. That was very reassuring and comforting, and I thank him very much for that statement. I read a speech made on April 28th last by the noble Lord who moved this Motion, in which he is reported to have said that he did not intend to consult the Leaders on the Front Opposition Bench, but would propose the Motion himself without consulting anybody except perhaps his friends on the private Benches whom he would get to support him. I thought, under those circumstances, that it would not be a very formidable Motion, and I was alarmed when I saw the noble Marquess get up from the Front Opposition Bench to support it. But the noble Marquess's speech was on all fours with that of the noble Lord who preceded him, and so we breathed again.

But what I had the greatest confidence in was the fact that this question, debateable as it is, is one neither of policy nor of principle. It is a question of industrial expediency, a sort of national insurance, and the point, so far as I understand it, is whether it is necessary, in the national interests, that this system of national insurance should or should not be continued. I have a strong personal opinion on that subject myself. I have expressed it once or twice, and need not trouble the House again with regard to it. But even if this were a Vote of Censure it would only be a Vote of Censure on a question of expediency, and not on one of principle or policy. One Vote of Censure differs from another in importance just as one star we are told differs from another in glory.

What is the real state of the case? The question of Canadian cattle was not even mentioned in the King's Speech; the Government do not intend to bring in a Bill to repeal the Act of 1896 in the present session; and there is not the slightest possibility that the private Bill to which reference has been made, and upon which there has been such a hubbub, will proceed any further this session. Therefore I hope I may be permitted to say that we have not been in a hurry to make a change. We have recognised the magnitude of the interests involved, and it is my firm conviction that those interests will best be served by the adoption of a course which will allow Parliamentary and public opinion to mature and ripen.

Earl Carrington.

That being so, are we very much to blame? What do the Opposition really wish us to do? It is well known that there is a great diversity of opinion upon this subject. Even people in the same family do not agree one with another; the members of His Majesty's Cabinet have different opinions, as is well known; counties have different opinions; I believe Scotland—I have been corrected in this House for the statement, but I believe it is true—Scotland also is divided, in fact I believe a majority of Scotsmen are against any alteration in the law. And as regards England, I think Lord Desborough, who spoke in this House in the debate initiated by Lord Jersey some time ago, said that ninety-nine out of every 100 ordinary agriculturists of England were in favour of the *status quo*.† Perhaps that may be a high figure, but there is no doubt whatever—everybody must see from the great deputation which did me the honour to come and see me on the subject—that the great weight of English agricultural opinion is certainly against any change at present. My candid friend told me, "Oh, that is all very well, but there are two ways of doing it." I suppose there are. There is the right way and there is the wrong way. But it struck me that I might go a little bit further, and there came across my mind a very wise saying that was put into the mouth of one of the cleverest and most fascinating *primas donnas* that delighted all Paris just before the Franco-Prussian war of 1870—I mean Hortense Schneider—and Mr. Offenbach, in his opera *La Belle Hélène*, has put into her mouth these words:—

> "*Il y a trois moyens d'arriver au cœur d'une femme—l'amour, la violence, et la ruse.*"

I think I might go on with that simile by saying that there are three ways in which a British Prime Minister can touch the heart of the British House of Commons. There is the affectionate way; he can go to the House of Commons and say, "This is a debateable point on which there is a great diversity of opinion, and I would like to get your opinion on the subject; I should like it debated so that I may know what the opinion of the country, through the House of Commons, is." Then there would be the violent, or the autocratic way of treating the subject

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 649.

—the way that would have been adopted by the younger Pitt. He might say—

> "*Sic volo sic jubeo:* I don't care what your opinions are, you will have to toe the line."

He would have brought the House of Commons, and the Cabinet, and the nation, together in a way which reminds me of a sentence used in your Lordships' House by the late Marquess of Salisbury himself, when he practically told a recalcitrant Archbishop of Canterbury:—

> "I don't care three straws what you think; what I mind is what you do."

Then there is the third way of treating the subject, and that would be the diplomatic or the Balfourian way. He would say: "A disagreeable man has brought a disagreeable question before the House of Commons; it is a difficult thing to face, but there is one way of getting out of the difficulty; let us all stay away and let not us go near the place until the storm has blown over." The Prime Minister chose the first of these methods, and I believe that by showing his trust and his confidence in the House of Commons he has to so great an extent deservedly obtained the reciprocal trust and confidence and affection of that great body.

Now, as regards this attitude, what reasonable cause of complaint is there? The noble Lord, Lord Heneage reminded us that there had been an election. We on this side of the House are not likely to forget that election for some considerable time. But we must also not forget that this is a self-governing country; the Ministry accepts office on that footing, and it is the business of the Ministry to give effect to the wishes of the country, the people of which have put that Ministry in power, and they ought not to take office unless they are prepared to do so. Where can we find a proper expression of the country's wishes except in the House of Commons, the Members of which—whatever other people may say—are the direct representatives of the country at large? So, my Lords, this is the way in which a question, not of principle, not of policy, but of expediency, has been treated.

I have but very little more to say. My noble friend Lord Burghclere, in the speech which he made to-night, anticipated a great deal of what I should have said had he not made that speech. I do not wish to delay the House by going over the whole ground again. The subject was debated at very great length when, a few weeks ago, Lord Jersey brought the question before your Lordships.† But I am grateful to Lord Heneage for having brought the subject forward again, because it gives me an opportunity of bringing before the House of Lords—and, through the House of Lords, before the nation—the chivalrous way in which the great Dominion of Canada has behaved in this matter. Canada has shown this country a great example by her attitude. This Act is of just as great importance to the Dominion of Canada as it is to ourselves. They look upon it as a matter—I will not say of injustice, but they think it would be just if the embargo was removed; and Mr. Fisher, the Minister for Agriculture, has gone so far as to say that he looked upon it as an unfriendly act. That is perfectly true, but I am informed by one who is best qualified to speak, and who has the confidence not only of this country, but also of the great Dominion of Canada—I have his direct statement that whatever may be the decision of your Lordships' House and of the House of Commons and of this country, it will cause no feeling of resentment in Canada whatever, and it will be loyally accepted; it may be a disappointment, but it will be received with feelings entirely friendly, and will make no bad blood whatever between the two countries. That brings me to the last words that I have to say, namely, that the British Empire can surely be in no peril when such messages as these are flashed across the seas from the sons of that empire of which we are so proud to the mother country which they love so well.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: May I ask the noble Earl whether he referred in his remarks to Lord Strathcona?

*EARL CARRINGTON: Yes.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Lord who has just sat down did not impart to us the name of that candid friend to whom he owes so much of the inspiration of his speech, and I am tempted to hope that that anonymity will be preserved, for anything more imperfect than his appreciation of the situation in the House this evening I can scarcely imagine. I do not think it ever entered into any of our heads, when we saw the notice which my noble friend had put upon the Paper, that it was intended as a vote of censure upon His Majesty's Government. What I conceived that that Motion was intended to afford was an opportunity to His Majesty's Ministers of making their attitude, with regard to this important question, a little clearer than it has hitherto been. I am bound to say that up to a certain point the noble Lord the President of the Board of Agriculture has thrown a little more light upon the intentions of His Majesty's Government, for he has told us to-night distinctly that we need have no apprehension whatever that His Majesty's Ministers will legislate upon this subject during the present session, and that the Private Bill, to which reference has been made, is not likely to be further proceeded with. No doubt that statement applies to any Private Bill or proposal that may proceed from other sources. Therefore, I have to thank the noble Lord for having, to some extent, given us a little comfort. I was rather amused—if he will forgive my saying so—at the ingenious defence of His Majesty's Government offered to the House by my noble friend Lord Burghclere. He suggested that we had been demanding of His Majesty's Government that they should regard the Act of 1896 as a law of the Medes and Persians, and that they should give a formal undertaking to Parliament that under no circumstances should that Act be ever altered or amended. None of my noble friends who have spoken on the subject have taken up that attitude for a moment. But we were seriously alarmed at the manner in which the question was dealt with in speeches delivered both in this House and elsewhere — not in the speeches delivered by the representatives of the Board of Agriculture, because the noble President showed by his language that his personal inclinations, at all events, were in what we conceive to be the right direction, and I believe that in the other House of Parliament, the representative of the Board of Agriculture, although loudly called for, was not allowed to take part in the debate. But, my Lords, when we come to the more prominent members of the Government, I have to say a word as to what fell from the noble Marquess the Leader of the House. He will recollect that last time this question was discussed he closed the debate, and in his concluding remarks he asked for time, upon the ground that His Majesty's Government were carefully considering the "cross-currents" of public opinion, both in Great Britain and in Ireland, and he promised me that if I was not satisfied with his answer, I should be satisfied in a very short time. That satisfaction has not been afforded to us—certainly not until to-night, and to-night only to a limited extent. The day after our debate, however, we had a statement from the Prime Minister, and I gather from the manner in which that statement has been received out of doors that it was universally interpreted as an announcement that the Act of 1896 ought to go, but that the time had not quite come for repealing it. There was an expression to this effect—that the first blast of the trumpet could not be expected to bring down the walls, or something of that kind, and we naturally drew the inference that an attack in force upon the Act of 1896 was fully intended by His Majesty's advisers, and in all that he has said in Parliament and out of Parliament the Prime Minister has made it apparent that the particular cross-current which he has been navigating has been drifting him towards the East Coast of Scotland and nowhere else.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 632 *et seq.*

In these circumstances I think that my noble friends who have brought this subject forward are amply justified in protesting against an indefinite prolongation of the suspense in which the agricultural community of these islands have been kept with regard to a question which in their eyes is of absolutely vital importance to their profession. The great majority of the farmers of the United Kingdom are strongly in favour of the maintenance of the Act of 1896, and the reason may be expressed in two or three words which I take from a speech of my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture, who told, I think, a deputation that undoubtedly the farmers of this country regarded with "overwhelming terror" the prospect of the introduction of disease. That is the feeling of the agricultural community. If there was any reason for supposing that the restrictions imposed by the Act of 1896 had really seriously injured anyone, I could much more conceive that His Majesty's Government should desire to repeal it. But all the evidence is the other way. I am not going to trouble your Lordships with statistics, but if you will look at the statements which have been made on behalf of the Department concerned—the Board of Agriculture—you will see that since 1896 there has been substantially no increase in the price either of store cattle or of meat. Of course there have been fluctuations; the price of store cattle obviously varies according to the amount of keep in the country, but taking one period of years with another, if you will compare the five years that preceded the passing of the Act of 1896 with any subsequent term of years, you will find that prices, far from having been driven up by this legislation, have remained upon the whole fairly constant. I dwell upon that point because it is idle to pretend that this is a consumers' question. The consumer does not suffer for a moment by what you have done.

Then there is another thing to be considered. Do not forget that the result of this legislation has been to bring into existence a very extensive business in dead meat, or in cattle imported for slaughtering at the port of debarkation. Surely you ought to think twice before, in your endeavour to placate what I believe is a small section of the agricultural community, you disorganise and break up the whole of those trade arrangements. One word more. The suggestion has been made that the Act of 1896 might be repealed, and that instead of it you should allow the Government of the day to deal with this question from time to time. I want your Lordships to consider for one moment what that means. It means that you will substitute for a statute of which everyone is aware the action of a Government Department. If I was sure that in all cases the judgment of the Board of Agriculture—by which I mean the Board consisting of the President and his expert advisers—would prevail, I should not be so much alarmed at the change. But what we all know, and what we have been taught by recent events, is that it is not the experts at the Board of Agriculture, or the Minister for Agriculture,—for there is no difference in the views of one Minister for Agriculture and another on this question—but it is the Government of the day, influenced by those cross-currents and political influences of which we are all aware, and the prevalence of which was admitted by the President of the Board of Agriculture, when he gave us his views on the constitutional relations between the Prime Minister and the House of Commons—it is those influences which will prevail, and not the real necessities of the farmers of the country.

I will refer to only one other point, namely, that which was dealt with in his closing sentences by my noble friend Lord Carrington. He spoke of the attitude of the Canadian Government. I feel sure that he described that attitude with absolute correctness. I, for one, doubt extremely whether the Act of 1896 has really inflicted any very great injury upon the farmers of Canada. My impression is that they send their cattle to us, in spite of the Act of 1896, not as stores but in the shape of beef or in the shape of fat cattle for slaughter. But be that as it may, I am firmly convinced that any measures which the Government of this country may deem necessary for the protection of our own farmers will be loyally acquiesced in by the Canadian Government and the Canadian people.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I addressed your Lordships so recently upon this subject that it is not necessary that I should detain you for any length of time. I told your Lordships on a former occasion what my views on this question were generally—namely, that I had been an opponent of the Act of 1896 in this House. I told your Lordships then, and I must say it again now, that looking at the question as an abstract question, I prefer the arrangements which obtained before the Act of 1896 was passed to the arrangements made by that Act. The arrangements which existed before 1896, and were administered with so much ability by my noble friend Lord Burghclere, kept out disease from this country. My noble friend took upon himself the great responsibility—I am sure he will agree that it was a great responsibility—of excluding Canadian cattle altogether. He excluded them successfully, and therefore I thought in 1896 that there was no necessity for a change in the law. But as I said upon a former occasion, the change may have been inadvisable—I think it was—but it having been made, it is a very different thing to propose to alter the law which was then passed, and which I admit has worked successfully for its purpose since that time. With regard to the intentions of His Majesty's Government, I have only to repeat what was said by my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture. His Majesty's Government have no present intentions of proposing to repeal or to alter the Act of 1896. That, I hope, is a clear and explicit declaration. With regard to the Bill which is still technically before the House of Commons, I think it is admitted by all those who know the mode of procedure in that House that that Bill has practically no chance of getting any further. When I last addressed your Lordships on this subject, it was on the eve of the discussion upon that Bill, and I think that it was correct of me not to express a more definite opinion than I did, seeing that the whole subject was about to be discussed in the House of Commons. That discussion is past; it is not likely to be renewed; and I have stated the views of His Majesty's Government explicitly, I hope. My noble friend who has just sat down, and the noble Lord who introduced the discussion, say that this Motion is not intended as a vote of censure. Of course I accept that declaration. I think the Motion might have been worded in a different manner, and then it never would have created the suspicion, which I confess I had in my mind, that it was so intended. But when my noble friend says it is not so intended, it would be very foolish and absurd for me to suppose that it is. At the same time there is no necessity for passing this Resolution at all, and I am glad to see that my noble friend admits that to be so, and, therefore, I do not know that I need detain your Lordships any longer, because all that I desired to do was to repeat the opinion expressed by my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture in respect to the intentions of the Government in the matter.

LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, as far as I personally am concerned, I am perfectly satisfied with the result of the debate, and therefore I shall be only too glad to ask your Lordships' leave to withdraw the Motion.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House adjourned at half-past Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 21st May, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Borough of Maidstone:—

The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts, 1854–1895.

Maidstone Election.

To the Right Hon. The Speaker of the House of Commons.

We, Sir William Grantham, Knight, and Sir John Compton Lawrance, Knight, Judges of the High Court of Justice, and two of the Judges on the Rota for the time being for the Trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, do hereby Certify in pursuance of the said Acts that upon the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, and 16th days of May of this year, we duly held a Court at the Sessions House, Maidstone, for the trial of and did try the Election Petition for the Borough of Maidstone between Sir Francis Evans, Baronet, K.C.M.G., Petitioner, and Charles Stewart Henry, Viscount Castlereagh, Respondent.

And in further pursuance of the said Acts We Certify that at the conclusion of the said trial, we determined that the said Charles Stewart Henry, Viscount Castlereagh, being the Member whose Election and Return were complained of in the said Petition was duly elected and returned.

And whereas charges were made in the said Petition of Corrupt and Illegal Practices having been committed at the said Election, We, in further pursuance of the said Acts, Report as follows :—

1. That no corrupt or illegal practice has been proved to have been committed by or with the knowledge and consent of any Candidate at the said Election.

2. That Henry Archibald Waring was proved to have been guilty of the illegal practice of making a payment on account of the conveyance of Electors to and from the Poll.

3. That corrupt or illegal practices were not proved to have, nor have we reason to believe that corrupt or illegal practices have extensively prevailed at the said Election.

4. That no Candidate has been proved to have been guilty by his Agents of any corrupt or illegal practice at the said Election.

5. That the person reported guilty of an illegal practice has been furnished with a Certificate of Indemnity.

A Copy of the Evidence and of our Judgment, taken by the Deputies of the Shorthand Writer of the House of Commons, accompanies this our Certificate.

Dated this 18th day of May, 1906.

Wm. Grantham.
J. C. Lawrance.

Shorthand Writer's Notes laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked whether the House might expect to be furnished with the shorthand notes of the proceedings at the Yarmouth trial. He asked the Question for various reasons of which the House was in possession.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot inform the hon. Member, but I will make inquiries.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Havana United Railways and Regia Warehouses Bill [Lords]; Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords]; Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. : — Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [Lords]. Read a third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill (Prince of Wales' Consent signified). Bill read the third time andpassed.

Bristol Corporation Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

London United Tramways Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment) Bill; Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill (by Order). As amended, considered; A Clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Hackney Electricity Bill (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Marriages Provisional Order Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Liverpool and the counties of Bedford, Buckingham, and Hertford," presented by Mr. Runciman; supported by Mr. Burns; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 218.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Cuckfield (Rural), Leek, and the Wanstead and Woodford Joint Hospital District," presented by Mr. Runciman; supported by Mr. Burns; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 219.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—Cathcart District Railway (Superfluous Lands) Order Confirmation Bill; North Berwick Corporation Order Confirmation Bill; Carlisle Corporation Bill, without Amendment.

Thornton Urban District Gas Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to include Bribery amongst Extradition Crimes." [Extradition Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for the suppression of Betting in Streets and other public places." [Street Betting [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Crediton Gas Company; and for other purposes." [Crediton Gas Bill, [Lords.]

CREDITON GAS BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of law: From Aberystwyth (two); Addlestone; Ashby cum Fenby; Chorlton cum Hardy; Dudleston; Heaton Mersey; Holme in Cliviger; Hougham and Marston; Keevil (two); Knightsbridge; North and South Stoke; Patricroft; Scunthorpe (two); Tatham (two); Whitworth (two); and, Wrawby (two); to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Warminster, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT).

Copy presented, of Report for the year 1904 [by Command] to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Thirty-third Annual Report by the Accountants for Scotland to the Scotch Education Department [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3589 to 3594 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).

Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XV. (Edinburgh, No. 6.) (Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 174.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) (NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd February; *Mr. Birrell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 175.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

H.M.S. "Dreadnought."

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will include in his promised statement about the "Dreadnought," the increase of cost and displacement due to the last knot and last two knots of extra speed; and whether an explanatory statement will be issued prior to the discussion of the Shipbuilding Vote giving these details for the battleships, cruisers, and submarine boats which are under construction or projected, similar to the information which used to be given in the Navy Estimates.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) It is intended to issue, prior to the discussion on Vote 8, the promised statement in regard to the "Dreadnought," and certain details respecting the other vessels under construction. In reply to the first part of the Question, as any reduction in the speed would vitally alter the design and result in an entirely different ship, the information asked for is not available, and any estimate that might be given would be misleading.

The Naval Intelligence Department.

MR. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty for what length of time do captains serving at the Naval Intelligence Department retain their position; whether he can cause to be shown in the Navy List the dates of appointment of all officers serving at the Admiralty, as is done in the case of officers serving in ships; whether he can also indicate in the index the fact if they are serving at the Admiralty; and if these facilities cannot be afforded he will state the reason.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Captains serving in the Naval Intelligence Department hold their appointments during pleasure. The duration of the appointment does not as a rule exceed three years, but it may be extended at pleasure. The dates of first appointment in the case of officers holding civilian appointments at the Admiralty can be shown in the Navy List, though it will give extra work; but as regards the proposed alteration to the index, the symbols already given indicate the department in which the officer is serving, and it is not considered desirable to make any alterations or additions involving further elaboration.

Summer Uniforms for Rural Auxiliary Postmen.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will inquire why the Department does not supply a summer suit and overcoat to a rural auxiliary postman doing less than five hours work a day in view of the fact that those articles are supplied to auxiliary postmen whose posts are much less exposed.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will inquire into the matter.

Central Telegraph Store Depots.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General what is the total cost, including overtime, of the clerical staff and labour employed in the central telegraph store depots during 1903–4, 1904–5, 1905–6, and 1906–7 estimated, and what was the value of the stores examined and issued from these depots in each year of the same period; whether he is prepared to consider favourably proposals to establish a central telegraph store depot in Dublin, where stores would be delivered by contractors, examined, and issued for engineering works in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The total cost, including overtime, of the clerical staff and labour employed in the central store depots, including the chief pole depots in the provinces, during the years in question was:—

	£	
1903–4 - -	37,650	
1904–5 - -	42,958	
1905–6 - -	49,916	
1906–7 - -	53,540	(Estimated)

The gross value of the stores dealt with at those depots is estimated as follows:—

	£
1903–4 - - -	1,419,000
1904–5 - - -	1,654,000
1905–6 - - -	1,838,000
1906–7 - - -	2,047,000

There is a local store depot in Dublin, but I do not think it would be expedient to establish a central depot such as the hon. Member contemplates.

Cost of Naval Shipbuilding.

MR. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what are the figures of comparative cost of hulls only in the case of similar ships built in the Royal dockyards and private yards respectively, since the system of allowing contractors to complete vessels for service came into operation.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The information asked for is as follows:—

	Cost of hull.	
	Contract built.	Dockyard built.
Battleships.	£	£
King Edward VII. Class:		
Commonwealth	918,517	—
Dominion	884,435	—
Hindustan	899,607	—
King Edward VII.	—	905,741
New Zealand	—	872,560
Armoured Cruisers.		
Monmouth Class:		
Berwick	400,354	—
Cumberland	410,105	—
Donegal	409,256	—
Lancaster	424,594	—
Kent	—	420,667
Suffolk	—	393,482
Essex	—	445,694
Cornwall	—	419,053
Devonshire Class:		
Devonshire	—	450,851
Antrim	501,506	—
Argyll	511,164	—
Carnarvon	492,292	—
Hampshire	490,472	—
Roxburgh	481,063	—

Early Morning Delivery of Letters in the City of London.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): To ask the Postmaster-General whether it would be possible to make arrangements for the earlier delivery of letters by the first post in the city of London, so that there shall be security for the delivery of letters before 8 or 8.15 in the morning.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It would not be possible to afford an earlier delivery of letters by the first post in the City of London without excluding various mails and a large amount of correspondence, and thereby giving rise to grave complaint. The utmost efforts are made to deliver the correspondence as early as possible. As regards letters which could be prepared for delivery at an earlier hour, the number of people desiring such earlier delivery of part of their correspondence is believed to be small, and I would suggest that they should have their letters sorted into private boxes and obtain an early delivery by employing their own messengers.

Promotions to Head Postmasterships.

MR. NUTTALL (Lancashire, Stretford): To ask the Postmaster-General, if he will state what percentage of the promotions to head postmasterships have been granted to established sub-postmasters, and the percentage to sorting clerks and telegraphists, during the past ten years.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Considerable labour would be involved in obtaining the information asked for by the hon. Member. Appointments to head postmasterships are filled by the selection of the most suitable candidates, irrespective of the classes to which they belong, and I do not think it would be expedient to reserve fixed proportions of such appointments for particular classes of officers.

School Board Franchise in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that out of 936 persons on the valuation roll for the parish of Barvas, Island of Lewis, no less than 880 have no vote for school board elections by reason of their rentals being less than £4; and, seeing that this results in schools being placed under the chairmanship of the proprietor's factor who is chairman of three of the four school boards in the island, will he take such steps as may be necessary to extend the school board franchise to all persons entitled to vote at parliamentary and county council elections.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) Pending the issue of the Return referred to in my Answer to his Question of March 26th, I can express no opinion as to the correctness of the figures quoted by the hon. Member. The question of the school board franchise is one to be dealt with in a general education bill for Scotland.

Effect of London County Council Power Station on Instruments at Greenwich Observatory.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can now state the result of his investigation into the effect of the London County Council power station, erected on the meridian close to Greenwich Observatory, on the instruments used there; and whether it will be possible in the future to rely on observations taken there for the purpose of the Nautical Almanack.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Tests have recently been carried out to determine the possible effect of this station on the instruments in the Observatory, and I hope to be able to make a statement on the subject as soon as the results have been examined.

Grant to John Bennett on the Denning Estate.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that John Bennett, an evicted tenant, has been allotted 20 acres by the Estates Commissioners on the Denning estate, in King's County; can he say how long he has been in possession; whether he was promised a grant by the Estates Commissioners to enable him to stock his land; whether he has yet received the grant; and, if not, what is the cause of the delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that on the 19th February last they allotted to John Bennett a holding of about 86 acres on the estate of J. Denning. The Commissioners have sanctioned a free grant of £100 to this tenant for the provision of stock, and have instructed their inspector accordingly.

Game Licences in King's and Queen's Counties.

MR. REDDY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that during the last shooting season a magistrate, with others, in the Midlands, was several times shooting partridge and other game over game dogs, to the knowledge of the police, without a game licence; whether in the same neighbourhood land grabbers, and the supporters of and sympathisers with land grabbers, were constantly shooting partridge and pheasants, to the knowledge of the police, without a game licence; can he say why the police took no notice and did not acquaint the excise officer of these breaches of the law; and whether instructions will be given to the police in King's County and Queen's County that no persons are to be permitted to defraud the revenue with impunity.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The hon. Member is mistaken in supposing that the police have any duty to discharge in respect of game licenses. They are, in fact, instructed that it is not their duty to inquire whether persons have such licences. The Inspector General, however, informs me that, so far as he can ascertain, no case has occurred in King's or Queen's County in which unlicensed persons have shot game to the knowledge of the police.

Prosecutions for Trespass in Ireland.

MR. REDDY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether instructions have been issued or intimation given to the rural police in Ireland by head constables, district inspectors, county inspectors, or other officers, to the effect that grabbers, emergency men, their supporters or sympathisers, are not to be summoned or proceeded against for the trespass on the high roads of cows, calves, goats, donkeys, or other animals their property; if no such instruction or intimation has been given, can he explain the action of the rural police in permitting the parties named to commit trespass with impunity; and whether he will take steps to have the police informed that it is their duty to impartially proceed against all offenders, and that such action will not militate against promotion.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector General informs me that no instructions of the nature indicated have been issued, and he is not aware of any failure on the part of the police to prosecute any class of persons for the offences named. It is the duty of the police to act impartially in the matter of prosecuting all offenders against the law. If any specific instance of default by the police can be given the Inspector General will have the matter fully inquired into and the proper action taken. There is, he informs me, absolutely no foundation for the suggestion that promotion is affected by the matters alluded to.

Amount Standing to Credit of the Irish Department of Agriculture.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what is now the total amount at the credit of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Ireland, caused by the non-expenditure of the yearly Parliamentary grant since the creation of the Department: for what purpose is this fund being formed, and by what authority this money is being diverted from the purposes for which it has been voted by Parliament; and why is no statement of the amount of this fund shown in the annual Report of the Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) It is assumed that this Question relates to the sum of £18,000 per annum voted by Parliament as a grant-in-aid under Section 15 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act of 1899. This sum, which forms part of the general endowment fund of the Department arising from various sources, is applied in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Act, and has not been diverted to other purposes than those specified in that section. A statement relative to the unexpended balances of the income of the endowment fund is given on page 9 of the Department's Fifth Annual Report recently published.

Average Attendances in Irish National Schools.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the average attendance required for the first assistant and for the second assistant in Irish national schools; when were these averages introduced and what were the previous averages required, and is it proposed to reduce the present averages; whether the average for the second assistant has been reduced in proportion to that for the first assistant, and, if not, why; what additional sum would be required to grant a second assistant to schools with an attendance of eighty pupils or above; and whether, considering the necessity that exists for additional help in these schools, he will favourably consider the question of reducing the 95 average and providing the necessary funds.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The average attendance necessary to warrant the employment of one assistant teacher is fifty, and of two assistant teachers, ninety-five. The rules as to these averages were introduced in 1904 and 1898 respectively. The former averages were sixty and 105, respectively. It is not proposed to reduce the present averages. The average for the second assistant was not reduced in 1904 because in the opinion of the Commissioners, an adequate reduction had already been made, namely, in 1898. Smaller schools require a relatively larger teaching staff than larger schools. The Commissioners estimate that about £14,000 per annum would be required to grant a second assistant to schools with an average attendance of eighty. I am afraid that the suggestion made in the concluding part of the Question cannot be entertained having regard to the many other claims on the Ireland development grant for other (including educational) purposes.

Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants on the Shelton Estate.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether applications have been received by the Estates Commissioners with regard to the reinstatement of two evicted tenants, named James Murphy and Laurence O'Connell, on the Shelton estate, situated at Rossmore, in the county of Limerick; whether the holdings in question have been derelict for the past three years; and, under the existing circumstances, what steps the Commissioners propose to take in regard to the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received applications for reinstatement from both of the evicted tenants named, who state that their former holdings are in the occupation of Simon Morrissey. The Commissioners intend to have the applications inquired into in due course.

Boycotting, Intimidation, &c., in Ireland.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the cases of boycotting, intimidation, outrage, and incitement to outrage which have been reported to the Irish Constabulary during the six months ending March 31st last which have not been followed by the arrest or prosecution of the offenders; and can he explain why so many offenders escape being brought to justice.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) When any cases of the kind mentioned occur, the facts are reported by the Inspector-General to the Irish Government. The Question would appear to suggest that the number of such cases has increased or that the proportion of offenders brought to justice has decreased. The Inspector-General, however, informs me that there is no foundation whatever for any such suggestion.

Payments to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to his statement that some £19,000 had been paid to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland whether it was necessary for the Department to have the approval of the Board of

Agriculture before these payments were authorised; if so, on what dates was authorisation given for any sum in excess of £2,000; and whether he can refer to any Minutes, Annual Accounts, or Reports of the Board in which the fact of these payments having been made was clearly set out.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) At the second meeting of the Agricultural Board, held on July 11th, 1900, the Board had under consideration an arrangement in regard to the technical instruction then carried on by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in connection with agriculture, creameries, egg packing, poultry, fruit growing, and flax cultivation, and they approved of the Department taking over that work and employing the experts engaged in such instruction as from April 1st, 1900, to such extent and subject to such conditions as the Department might approve. All such payments prior to February, 1905, other than those in respect of the organisation of agricultural banks, were made under this covering authority, and were not grants to the Society, but payments in respect of work done for the Department by the experts in the above subjects employed by the Society. Sanction for payments in respect of the organisation of agricultural banks through the organisers employed by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was given by the Board at their meeting on April 23rd, 1901, when £1,000 was voted for this purpose; at their meeting on November 4th, 1902, when a further sum of £1,000 was voted; and at their meeting on June 16th, 1904, when £1,200 was voted. The question of revising the arrangements for directing the work done through officers of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was brought before the Board by the Department on August 25th, 1903, November 11th, 1903, June 16th, 1904, November 8th, 1904, January 25th, 1905, and February 8th, 1905. On the latter date a scheme employing the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, in connection with certain forms of agricultural organisation other than that of agricultural banks, was adopted. The expenditure upon payments to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for work done for the Department by the Society's agricultural experts is included in the amount set out in the Department's Annual Reports under the sub-head "Agricultural Instruction." The expenditure out of the votes of the Agricultural Board for organisation and agricultural banks is shown in the Annual Reports under the sub-head "Organising Agricultural Banks." Portion of an annual sum of £3,000 voted by the Agricultural Board for rural industries was also expended in payment for work done by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in the organisation of such industries. The amount so expended is included in the sum set out in the Annual Reports under sub-head "Rural and other Industries." The members of the Agricultural Board have always had full access to all particulars in regard to the Department's expenditure, and no expenditure out of the Department's agricultural surplus has been undertaken without their sanction.

Cost of Army Horses.

CAPTAIN KINCAID SMITH (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the average cost to the State per horse supplied to officers as chargers, including upkeep, staff, stabling, etc.; and whether, considering the unsatisfactory results of this arrangement, he will consider the advisability of giving a grant of money to officers towards the cost of providing themselves with chargers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The average price allowed in Estimates for the purchase of chargers is £65, and this sum covers the cost of purchase, and of the staff, upkeep, stabling, etc., before issue to the officer. The suggested grant of a sum of money to him to buy his own charger would not enable him to buy a horse as economically as under present arrangements, as he has not the same opportunities as an expert buyer, who purchases several horses at a time. Further, the Reports received from the different commands and units do not lead to the conclusion that the present arrangement is unsatisfactory.

Troops Camped in the New Forest.

MR. FIENNES (Oxfordshire, Banbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the number and description of the troops that were camped and trained in the New Forest in 1904–5 on Crown lands, and the number and description of the troops that are to receive their annual training there this year; and whether the camps are to be situated on Crown land or private property.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) 1904. Royal Marine Artillery, six Volunteer battalions. 1905. Royal Marine Artillery, 1st and 2nd Divisions, Telegraph battalion, Royal Engineers, five Volunteer battalions, and one Cadet Corps. 1906. Royal Marine Artillery, eleven Volunteer battalions, and one Cadet Corps. All these will camp on private property.

Closing of Mounted Infantry Schools.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the mounted infantry establishments are to be disbanded; and, in such case, how he reconciles such a decision with the necessity in the South African War of improvising large masses of such troops, and with the Reports of General Sir Ian Hamilton as to their utility in Manchuria.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Mounted Infantry Schools at Bulford, in Ireland, and at Malta, will be closed. The School of Mounted Infantry at Aldershot is considered by the Army Council to be sufficiently large to provide for the force of mounted infantry which will be required immediately on mobilisation.

Saving Effected by the Abandonment of the Surrey Defences of London.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: To ask the Secretary of State for War what amount he calculates will be saved by the abandonment of the Surrey defences of London; and what it is proposed to do with the dismantled forts.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) No decision has as yet been reached in regard to the disposal of the buildings and sites alluded to in the Question, and it is not therefore possible at present to give even an approximate estimate of the probable saving.

The Judge Advocate General's Letters Patent of Appointment.

Mr. PAUL (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a Copy of the Letters Patent appointing Mr. Milvain Judge Advocate General for life, or until he shall have reached the age of seventy.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) A copy of the letters patent appointing Mr. Milvain Judge Advocate General will be laid upon the Table.

Consecration of War Department Chapels.

Sir J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, since 9th May, 1894, the general principle stated by his predecessor, the Prime Minister, has been upheld, namely, that it would be highly inconvenient that War Department buildings used for public worship should be consecrated, and that it was not his intention to sanction consecration except in certain cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Yes, Sir. All applications for consecration have been refused.

Nigerian Grant in Aid of the North Nigerian Regiment.

Mr. COX (Preston): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he can form any estimate of what portion of the grant in aid of the revenue of Nigeria is expended on the cost of the Northern Nigerian regiment.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The total authorised expenditure of Northern Nigeria in the current financial year is £500,000, of which £156,600 is estimated to be spent on the Northern Nigerian regiment. The grant in aid is £315,000, so that the proportion of the grant to be expended on the regiment will be approximately £98,500, or about five-sixteenths of the total grant in aid.

Maps for Natal and Zululand Blue-book.

Mr. WALKER (Leicestershire, Melton) To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, seeing that such publications as the Annual Reports upon the Protectorates in Africa, and the Blue-book upon the disturbances in Natal and Zululand, cannot be understood without a reference to maps, while the ordinary atlases are totally inadequate, the Secretary of State will give instructions that maps shall in future be appended to these publications.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State will bear the suggestion of the hon. Member in mind, and in any cases where it may appear that the ordinary atlases would be inadequate, he will consider whether a suitable map could be appended without causing undue delay and with a proper regard to public economy. But it would not be practicable to prepare a special map in all cases and often nothing but a special map would suffice.

Increase in Admiralty Printing.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, having regard to the fact that the Stationery Office Vote, Class II., Vote 23, shows that the Admiralty charge for stationery and printing has increased from £82,684 in 1902–3 to £117,774 in 1904–5, will he explain the cause.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I have nothing to add to the reply given by the Secretary to the Treasury, on the 8th instant, to a similar Question asked by the hon. Member for King's Lynn.†

Battleships Removed from Fighting Line since January, 1902.

MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, whether he will state the names of the eight battleships removed from the fighting list since 1st January, 1902, and also those of the three since classed as of little fighting value.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The names of the eight battleships removed from the fighting list are:—"Collingwood," "Alexandra," "Superb," "Dreadnought," "Sultan," "Hercules," "Bellerophon," "Monarch."

The names of those classed as of comparatively small fighting value are:—"Conqueror," "Sans Pareil," "Hero."

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1157.

Newfoundland's Contribution to Maintenance of Royal Naval Reserve.

MR. COX: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the annual contribution received from Newfoundland in respect of the maintenance of the Royal Naval Reserve in the Colony; and what is the annual cost of the maintenance of that branch.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The arrangement is that the Colony of Newfoundland shall pay a sum of £3,000 annually towards the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve for a period of ten years from 1902, provided that the force shall consist of not less than 600 men. This annual payment is to be proportionately reduced for each man less than that number. The number of men borne on the 1st April last was 591. The annual cost of the maintenance of this branch of the Reserve is, approximately, £18,400.

Expenditure for Provided and Non-Provided Schools.

DR. MASSIE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): To ask the President of the Board of Education, whether he will give the expenditure for provided and non- provided schools separately, under three heads, for each year since 1902 (in continuation of the figures given in Table 25 of the Statistical Report [Cd. 1476] of Session 1903).

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I must refer the hon. Member to my reply to a Question which he asked me on 1st May,† and my reply to the hon. Member for Chester on 8th May.‡ Since the Act of 1902 came into force no separate accounts have been kept for provided or non-provided schools, and it is impossible therefore to give the information asked for.

Enactment Repealed under Schedule 2 of the Education Bill.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he will furnish a memorandum explanatory of the enactments proposed to be repealed under the Second Schedule of the Education Bill;

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 411–412.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1145.

and the effect of such repeals, both in regard to the present Education Bill and the various Education Acts dealt with by reference in the Second Schedule of the Education Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The repeals in the Second Schedule of the Bill are purely consequential on the provisions of the Bill. A memorandum can be furnished, in due course, showing how each repeal is necessitated by various provisions in the Bill.

Remuneration for Cleaning Schools.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland having regard to the fact that Mr. Boyd, on page 5 of his Report for the northern division, Education (Scotland), states that in some localities it is difficult to obtain persons to clean school premises, is he aware that this is due to the remuneration offered for the work being insufficient; and will he consider the expediency of directing the attention of school managers to this point.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) From inquiries made, it appears that in a number of rural localities the people open to employment of the kind in question are extremely few, and there the difficulty is not necessarily one of pay. The attention of managers is systematically drawn to the fact, whenever an inspector reports that a school is not kept clean; and, in cases of flagrant neglect, the grant is reduced; but the question of the proper amount of remuneration is one for managers.

Medical Inspection of Ross-shire Schools.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland in view of the statement contained on page 5 of the Education (Scotland) Report, Northern Division, will he supply a list of the forty schools on the mainland of Ross-shire which were visited by the medical officer of health for the county, in company with Mr. Macdonald, in March last; and will those schools to which a water supply is not laid on be indicated.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The following are the names of the forty schools in question: Alness Public School, Boath Public School, *Glenglass Public School*, *Strathconan Public School*, Contin Public School, *Scatwell Public School*, Dingwall Academy Public School, Edderton Public School, Balmuchy Public School, *Hill of Fearn Public School*, Hilton Public School, Fodderty Public School, Maryburgh Public School, *Kilmuir Easter Public School*, Tullich Public School, Kiltearn Public School, *Achnahannet Public School*, *Croick Public School*, Culrain Public School, Gledfield Public School, *Loubcroy Public School*, Achnasheen Public School, Kinloch-Luichart Public School, Strathgarve Public School, Logie Easter Public School, Scotsburn Public School, Nigg Public School, Pitcalnie Public School, Ardross Public School, Bridgend Public School. Invergordon Public School, Newmore Public School, *Saltburn Public School*. *Strathrusdale Public School*, Inver Public School, Tain Public School, Old Public School, Tarbert, West Public School, Tarbert, Marybank Public School, Tarradale Public School. The names of those in which a water supply was not laid on at the date of the visit are printed in italics.

Breaking up of Farms in the Isle of Lewis.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland in view of the fact that the last Report of the Congested Districts Board shows that the Secretary for Scotland, in order to meet the difficulties of the cottar question in South Uist, has induced the proprietrix to break up the farms of Kilbride, Gerinish, and Glendale, will he consider the expediency of using his influence with the proprietor of the Island of Lewis to induce him to break up farms in order to meet the cottar difficulty in that island.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I note the suggestion of the hon. Member, but am not able to make any further statement at present as to the policy of the Government.

The d'Angely Case.

Mr. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the refusal to offer an apology to Madame d'Angely is due to the intention of the Government to empower the Royal Commission which is about to be appointed to reopen the charge against her and to review the magistrate's decision.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The Royal Commission cannot, of course, reverse the magistrate's decision dismissing the charge against Madame d'Angely. But I must remind the hon. Member that grave charges have been made in this House and elsewhere against the three policemen who gave evidence. The Commission, will, no doubt, investigate those charges without delay, and I cannot anticipate the results of the investigation by any further statement.

Mr. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any precedent for an apology being tendered by the police, by a magistrate, or by the Home Secretary, to any person against whom a charge has been improperly brought in a police court.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) There have from time to time been cases where the Secretary of State or the Commissioner has expressed regret to the defendant that a charge should have been brought against him, if after inquiry he was satisfied that the police had acted improperly in bringing the charge.

Unemployed Legislation.

Mr. MYER (Lambeth, N.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board, what steps the Government intend to take during this Session of Parliament with regard to amending the Act relating to the unemployed, as promised in the King's Speech.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Government hope to introduce a Bill for the purpose of amending the Act, but I am not able to give any intimation as to what the proposals of the Bill will be.

Belfast Postal Learners and the New Scale of Wages.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General, if he can say why the new scale of wages which were to come into operation on January last has not yet been applied to the male learners at Belfast.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The delay in applying the new scheme at Belfast has been due to local difficulties. These have now been overcome and the new scheme has been brought into force; the new scale will date back to 1st January.

Fees of Public Works Loan Committee.

Colonel LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the fees received by the Public Works Loan Committee do not more than cover the expense.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) From 1898–9 to 1903–4 the fees received by the Public Works Loan Commissioners considerably exceeded the entire expenses of the establishment. Since the latter date the receipts from fees have fallen off, as a result of the restrictions which have been placed upon the making of new loans, and they do not at present cover the expenses.

Solicitor to the Public Works Loan Commissioners.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will state by whom the solicitor to the Public Works Loan Commission was appointed.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The appointment was made by the Commissioners, in whom it is vested by Section 6 of the Public Works Loans Act, 1875.

Public Works Loan Commission Accounts.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in regard to the Public Works Loan Commission, if he will say how many accounts were open in the year 1896; whether the number has largely increased up to the present time; and whether they involve a great amount of separate calculations of interest, and a large number of half-yearly payments.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The number of accounts open in the financial year 1895–6 was 11,396. This number has increased to 18,392 in 1905–06. All the Commissioners' loans are repayable by half-yearly payments, and the number of separate calculations involved in respect of these payments is considerable.

Suggested Taxing of Motor Cars.

MR. HERBERT: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the advisability of imposing an additional tax upon motor cars, the proceeds of which should be allocated to reimburse local authorities the cost of watering roads in their districts used for motor traffic, so as to diminish the nuisance from dust.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Consideration of this suggestion should, I think, be postponed until the Commission which is now sitting has presented its Report.

Transfer of Burma Police Inspectors to Bombay.

SIR J. JARDINE: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether two inspectors of police, originally appointed by the Chief Commissioner of Burma, are, or will be, transferred to the Bombay Presidency; and whether they are to be graded above superintendents of police in the Bombay Presidency who were appointed by the Secretary of State after passing examinations.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have no information as to the transfer of police officers mentioned in the Question, but I would refer my hon. friend to the Answer given by me on the 14th instant to a Question by the hon. Member for Hull dealing with a similar matter.† As I then stated, it is open to any officer who considers himself aggrieved to memorialise the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council.

Irish District Hospitals for Infectious Cases.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, with the view of meeting cases of people who are suffering from infectious diseases, but who are not destitute poor within the meaning of the Irish Poor Law Relief Acts, and in view of the fact that it has been decided by the county court judge of Kildare that such persons cannot be compelled to pay for their maintenance in the workhouse hospital, he will consider the advisability of issuing orders showing how far district councils have power, under the existing law, to provide district hospitals for cases of infectious disease, and how far boards of guardians can enter into agreements for the use of such hospitals for the accommodation of their cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board do not think that any necessity exists for the issue of an instructional circular as suggested. The Board have no reason to believe that the various rural and urban district councils are not fully aware of their powers under Section 155 of The Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, in regard to the providing of hospitals themselves, or entering into agreements with boards of guardians for the reception and treatment of patients in hospitals attached to union workhouses; and of their powers under Section 156 in regard to the recovery of the cost of maintenance from patients who are not paupers.

Irish Land Sales in 1903.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what towns and villages have been included under the Land Act sales of 1903, and what was the price; and the price and number of years' purchase in each town or village.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that sales of town and village plots have taken place under the Irish Land Act, 1903, in several cases in which such plots were included in the estate for sale and the Commissioners were satisfied as to the sufficiency of the security for the advance applied for. Separate records of such sales are not kept by the Commissioners.

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† See Col. 344.

Grants under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the places to which grants have been made under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act, 1902, the amounts spent in each place, and the amount still remaining unexpended; and what steps it is proposed to take for the expenditure of the balance.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer to the full statement in this matter which I made in reply to a Question on 9th April,† and which has probably escaped the hon. Member's notice.

Case of Constable Harte, Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Thomas Rice, of Poyntzpass, county Armagh, publican, reported Constable Harte, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, for being drunk on his licensed premises on 25th December, 1905, and that a charge was preferred against the constable founded on this report, with the result that Constable Harte was held to be not guilty of the offence with which he was charged, whilst the charges against the constable by Thomas Rice were held to have been made through vindictive motives, the constable having entered the licensed premises solely for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Licensing Acts; and whether, seeing that Constable Harte subsequently applied to the authorities for permission to bring an action against the Rice family for false imprisonment and slander, he will explain why such permission was refused; whether, seeing that it is usual for the police authorities to pay the expenses incurred by the police in defending themselves against charges arising out of the execution of their duty, he will say why Constable Harte's application to be re-imbursed his expenses and solicitor's costs was refused; will he say whether any prosecution has been brought against Rice for obstructing the constable while in the execution of his duty; if not, will he explain why; what steps will be taken that members of the Constabulary will not be again treated in a similar manner; and if the constable's application for leave to take an action for false imprisonment will be further considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector General informs me that a disciplinary court of inquiry was held in reference to a complaint of Mr. Rice that Constable Harte was drunk while on duty. The constable was acquitted. He had applied for and obtained permission to employ, at his own expense, a solicitor to defend him at the inquiry. Expenses so incurred cannot, under the regulations of the force, be defrayed from public funds. Constable Harte subsequently applied for permission to take legal proceedings against Mr. Rice for false imprisonment and slander, but the Inspector General refused permission, as he did not consider the case to be one which would justify a departure from the ordinary and salutary rule, that members of the force should not take civil actions for matters arising out of the performance of their duty. There was no necessity for prosecuting Mr. Rice for obstructing the constable while in the discharge of his duty. The Inspector General sees no reason for re-considering the application of the constable.

Report of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Act.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland why the Report of the Irish Agricultural Department's proceedings, under the Diseases of Animals Acts, for the year 1905, has not yet been presented to Parliament; when may the Report be expected; and whether he will secure that in future it will be presented punctually in February each year.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) It has not been usual to present the report referred to earlier than the present month. The veterinary branch of the Department has had considerable pressure of work this year, but it is expected that the Report will be ready next month. It would not, I am informed, be practicable to prepare the Report as early as February without neglecting current departmental work.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 959.

Outbreak of Epizootic Lymphangitis at Waterford.

MR. O'SHEE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, what is the cause of the delay of the Department of Agriculture in Ireland in acceding to the request of the Waterford County Council for an inquiry by an independent veterinary expert as to the outbreak and spread of epizootic lymphangitis in county Waterford.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) On 10th May the Department sent a reply to the Waterford County Council stating fully the reasons why, in the opinion of the Department, it was unnecessary to hold the inquiry asked for. The facts which have been already elicited leave practically no room for doubt as to the origin and spread of the disease, which has now happily disappeared.

Compensation to Tenants on Eviction for Improvements.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he has received a resolution from the Arva branch of the Town Tenants Association calling his attention to the treatment of one Peter Mulligan, of that town, who is under notice of eviction, which expires on 1st June; and, in view of the fact that £464 worth of improvements become the property of the landlord on the day of eviction, will he give the matter sympathetic consideration, with a view to remove the further possibility of such proceedings against industrious tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have received the resolution referred to, which appears to suggest that a clause should be inserted in the Town Tenants Bill giving retrospective effect to its proposed enactments. The Bill in question is not a Government measure, but in any event it would appear difficult to give effect to the suggestion.

Sale of Farm of James Carroll, of Fielduff.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the fact that a farm and land belonging to James Carroll, of Fielduff, near Louisburgh, county Mayo, was recently sold by public auction at the instance of the landlord, to whom £10 were due for rent, that the farm realised £35, and of this sum £16 were offered to the tenant, the remainder, £19, going to the landlord for rent and costs; whether he is aware that these proceedings took place without the authority or consent of the tenant; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have no means of ascertaining the precise facts of this case, but even assuming them to be as suggested the matter would not appear to be one in which the Government have power to interfere. If the tenant has been wrongfully deprived of his property, he has, I presume, a remedy at law.

Irish Teachers—Payment of Triennial Increment of Good Service Salary.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, when will the Commissioners of National Education authorise the payment of the triennial increments of good service salary due since 30th April last to teachers whose schools were satisfactory during the last three years.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the Reports on the schools for the last three years are now under their consideration, and that payment in respect of the triennial increments which may be granted will be made with the current quarter's salaries.

Marine Works at Falcharrib.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he can now state when it is intended to proceed with the works proposed to be carried out at Falchorrib, county Donegal, under the Marine Works Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The question of undertaking these works is receiving my consideration. It is no doubt important, but before making a definite statement, the Irish Government have to consider whether a larger sum than that originally proposed would not be needed in order to provide a harbour of shelter which would be really valuable, and it is also desirable to ascertain what prospect there is of obtaining local contributions.

Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants.—Case of Miss Lloyd, of Borrisnoe.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been drawn to the claims of Miss Lloyd, who was evicted in 1894 from her farm at Borrisnoe, on the estate of G. A. Medlin; is he aware that this farm was taken by one John Hodgins, and is at present in occupation of his son; does this man hold under a yearly tenancy or otherwise; is Hodgins or his herd, Denis Connolly, at present under police protection; and what steps have been taken, if any, towards effecting the reinstatement of the evicted tenant.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received an application for reinstatement, as evicted tenant, from Miss Catherine Lloyd. The farm in question is stated to be in the occupation of Mr. John Hodgins, junior, but the Commissioners are not aware of the terms of the tenancy. Mr. Hodgins' caretaker, Denis Connolly, is in receipt of police protection. Miss Lloyd is stated to be in the occupation of another holding in the neighbourhood, but the Commissioners will have her application inquired into by an inspector in due course.

Purchase of the Earl of Lucan's Estate.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Congested Districts Board are negotiating with the Earl of Lucan with a view to purchasing that portion of his estate in the Ballinrobe Union, county Mayo, comprising several townlands almost entirely given over for grazing purposes; whether he is aware that large numbers of tenants were evicted from these lands some fifty years ago, some of whom were permitted to live on a neighbouring marsh; that the descendants of these people live on the borders of these grazing ranches in a state of poverty and congestion: and, if so, whether he will see, when this estate is purchased, that these poor people will be supplied with economic holdings before applications from other persons are taken into consideration.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Congested Districts Board have not so far made an offer to purchase this estate, but the question of purchase is under their consideration. If the Board should acquire the property they will, in accordance with their usual practice, provide for the enlargement of the small holdings upon it.

Condition of Accommodation on the Ballinrobe and Claremorris Light Railway.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the character of the accommodation on the Ballinrobe and Claremorris Light Railway; whether he is aware that on various occasions several persons travelling between the two places were forced to stand up in cattle trucks and vans; that there is no train leaving the town of Ballinrobe later than 2 o'clock p.m. each day; that the people of that district have repeatedly asked the Midland and Great Western Railway Company for better train accommodation without result; and, if so, whether he will communicate with the Agricultural Department, with a view to getting that body to give a grant in aid of extra accommodation on this line at the earliest possible moment.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The question of the sufficiency of accommodation for passengers by this railway is one for the Board of Trade, to the President of which Department I beg to refer the hon. Member. I will commend it to the attention of my right hon. friend. As regards the concluding part of the Question, the Department of Agriculture do not consider that their funds could be properly supplied to the purpose suggested.

Lotteries in Ireland.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the carrying on of lotteries in Ireland; and what action, if any, does he propose to take in enforcing the law in this respect.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) My attention has not been called to the carrying on of lotteries in Ireland, but upon this subject I may refer to the Answer given by the right hon. Gentleman, the then Attorney-General for Ireland, to a similar Question on the 28th April, 1903.†

Cost of West African Garrison.

MR. COX: To ask the Secretary of State for War, what is the annual cost of the troops stationed in West Africa; and what is the amount of the annual contribution received from the West African Colonies.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The cost of the British troops stationed in West Africa for the year 1904–5 was £226,900. No contribution was received from the West African Colonies in aid of this expenditure.

Weekly Payment of Army Pensions.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether he is aware that the system of making monthly or quarterly payments to Army pensioners conduces to thriftlessness, and is an indirect cause of pauperism among ex-soldiers; and whether he will take into his consideration the question of making such payments in future by the week.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This Question is at present under consideration.

Powers of the Director of the National Gallery.

MR. HORNIMAN (Chelsea): To ask the Prime Minister, whether the post of director of the National Gallery is filled; and whether the holder of this office will in future be possessed of larger powers, so that pictures of importance may be purchased with less delay, and the danger of the prices being enhanced by their passing through the hands of intermediaries diminished.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) No public announcement can yet be made on the subject of the directorship of the National Gallery, but I hope shortly to be in a position to supply the information asked for by my hon. friend.

The Lords and the Aliens Bill.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton): To ask the Prime Minister, whether he will, at an early date, cause the Aliens Bill to be reintroduced in the House of Lords as a Government measure in charge of a Minister.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) As I understand it, the Bill in which the hon. Member is so much interested is still on the Order Book of the House of Lords, and does not require re-introduction. I have no doubt that it can be proceeded with if the hon. Member uses his influence in that direction with his friends in that House who stopped its progress the other day.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Greenwich Observatory.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can now state the result of his investigation into the effect of the London County Council power station, erected on the meridian close to Greenwich Observatory, on the instruments used there; and whether it will be possible in the future to rely on observations taken there for the purpose of the Nautical Almanack.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ROBERTSON, Dundee): Tests have recently been carried out to determine the possible effect of this station on the instruments in the Observatory, and

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxii., 647.

I hope to be able to make a statement on the subject as soon as the results have been examined.

White Women in Chinese Compounds.

Mr. DOBSON (Plymouth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information showing that white women are kept in the Chinese compounds around Johannesburg; and, if so, whether he will take steps to quickly and effectually render such an arrangement illegal.

Mr. NUSSEY (Pontefract): May I also ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information in regard to the presence of white women in Chinese compounds in South Africa; and, if so, what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (for Mr. Churchill): If the hon. Member does not object I will answer another similar Question addressed to me by my hon. friend the Member for Pontefract at the same time. The Secretary of State has no official information that white women are kept in the Chinese compounds, and has no reason whatever to believe that there is any truth whatever in any statement to that effect. Immoral relations between white women and coolies are already punishable in either party under the law of the Transvaal by long terms of imprisonment with hard labour.

Flogging Natal Natives.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the question of courts martial inflicting the lash upon natives in Natal who refuse to act the part of traitors to their friends; and whether the Secretary of State is satisfied that this punishment is in accordance with British law and custom; and, if not, what action he proposes to take on the subject.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The Secretary of State cannot view without regret the circumstances which in the opinion of the Natal Government render such measures necessary. He is not aware of any case in which they have been carried into effect; and he is confident that nothing but dire necessity involving peril to the lives of many persons would be held by the officers of the Zululand Field Force to warrant their application. There are many precedents in the history of every rebellion in every country and of most wars for the infliction of punishments which would not be in accordance with the custom of this or any country which happily enjoyed a state of profound peace.

Transvaal Gold Mines.

Mr. BELLOC (Salford, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the threat of shutting down the gold mines in the Transvaal; and whether, seeing that under Section 140 of Law No. 15 of 1898, as amended on 18th September, 1899, the right is expressly reserved to the Government to call upon the owner to work the mine, and, upon his refusal to do so, to take over whatever mining rights may have been granted to him, he proposes to take such action in case of this threat being carried into execution.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: This Question has been put several times before, and I would refer the hon. Member to the answer of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies on the 9th instant. There is nothing further to say on the subject.

Mr. BELLOC: The last part of the Question has not been answered before

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Yes.

Mr. BELLOC: What do the Government intend to do

Mr. RUNCIMAN: That Question has been answered before.

British Guiana.

Mr. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been drawn to a petition of the inhabitants of British Guiana calling attention to the precarious condition of the Colony, and to the refusal of the authorities of the Colony to carry out the recommendations of the West Indian Royal Commission of 1897, and the failure of the Governor to take proper precautions for the good order of the Colony, and to the shooting of strikers by the military on 1st December last;

and what action, if any, the Secretary of State for the Colonies proposes to take in these matters.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The petition in question has lately been received and will be duly considered. The Secretary of State is not able to make any statement at present.

Land Settlement in the Transvaal.

SIR JOHN DICKSON-POYNDER (Wilts, Chippenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will furnish a Return of all lands in the Transvaal withheld from sale for settlement under the Gold Law or any other law creating a possible monopoly of lands in the hands of individuals or companies. I beg also to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will furnish a Return of lands proclaimed under the Gold Law, which are held by individuals or companies for gold exploration and production, but are being withheld from agricultural development; and whether he will take steps to remove any restrictions upon the development of such lands for agricultural purposes.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Any alteration in the Transvaal Law affecting the tenure of these lands will be a matter for the consideration of the responsible government about to be conferred upon the Colony. If with this information before him, my hon. friend still desires the Return for which he asks, the Secretary of State will ascertain from the Governor whether it is possible to furnish it.

SIR JOHN DICKSON-POYNDER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can say to what purpose the £500,000 allocated, but not voted, for land settlement in South Africa has been applied; and whether it is the intention of the Government to cause this amount to be replaced to the Land Settlement Fund.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I would refer my hon. friend for explanation to p. 58 and p. 59 of Cd. 2563, Head III., of the Guaranteed Loan, which allotted £5,000,000 to meet claims for repatriation and compensation after the war has been overspent, and until the recoverable outstandings of the item of advances made by way of loan have been realised the money is not available. But my hon. friend may be assured that the desirability of maintaining the operations of the Land Settlement Fund by all reasonable and practicable means is fully recognised by the Secretary of State.

Pietermaritzburg Shipping Conference.

Mr. C. B. HARMSWORTH (Worcestershire, Droitwich): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is in a position to communicate to the House full particulars as to the evidence adduced and resolutions passed at the Shipping Conference recently held in Pietermaritzburg, and, further, to name an approximate date for the suggested Imperial inquiry.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Papers on this subject will be laid shortly, but the Secretary of State is not aware that any evidence was given at the Conference. It is not at present possible to name an approximate date for the Imperial inquiry.

Natal Rising—Trials of Ringleaders.

*Mr. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether special courts are to be established in Natal to try the rank and file of the natives implicated in the disturbances in Natal, and whether the ringleaders and chiefs will be tried by courts martial; and whether His Majesty's Government will make representations to the Government of Natal urging them, so far as is possible, to try all such natives in the ordinary courts of the Colony.

The following Questions also appeared on the Paper:—

Mr. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government approve of the appointment of special courts to try the rank and file of the natives captured during the Natal operations, with power to inflict lashes and impose a term of two years' imprisonment, and of the intention to try the chiefs and ringleaders by martial law; and, if they do not, what steps they propose to take, in order to bring pressure to bear upon the Natal

Government to have the natives tried by civil courts.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information showing that the trial of native political offenders, in connection with the present troubles in Natal, will be held by special courts to deal with the rank and file, with power to impose penalties up to two years' imprisonment and lashes, and that the ringleaders and chiefs will be tried by martial law tribunals; and, if so, whether the policy indicated, especially in regard to inflicting lashes as a punishment for political offences, will be repudiated by His Majesty's Government.

MR. RUNCIMAN: It will be convenient for me to answer at the same time the Questions by the hon. Members for the Elland division of Yorkshire and for Nottingham East on this subject. The Secretary of State understands that no special courts are to be established to try the rank and file, but that all minor cases of sedition, including illegally carrying arms, are to be tried by the magistrates. Serious cases requiring to be dealt with promptly will be tried by court martial. The Governor states that this decision was arrived at after considerable discussion with the Attorney-General, who attended the meeting of Ministers and himself. The Secretary of State does not consider that he could with advantage make representations to the Government of Natal upon the matter.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): What are the cases of special emergency?

MR. RUNCIMAN asked for notice of the Question.

White Labour in the Transvaal Mines.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that a deputation representing 6,000 skilled artisans have declared to Lord Selborne that if the scheme of repatriating the Chinese coolies in the Transvaal is carried out, 7,000 whites will lose their employment; and whether the posters in the mines will be removed.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The information received by the Secretary of State from Lord Selborne is that a deputation of working men delegated from a mass meeting of 3,000 miners held at Boksberg came to see him at Pretoria, also a deputation from meeting of miners in Simmor and Jack and Glen Deep Mines, and other bodies of miners were represented. They expressed great alarm at the possible results of the posters, and showed intense anxiety lest the industry should be dislocated and many of them lose their employment. No mention is made in Lord Selborne's telegram of their having said that 7,000 men would lose their employment. Resolutions in a contrary sense have been received by Lord Selborne from the Independent Labour Party and from Pretoria Lodge of the South African Operative Masons' Society. His Majesty's Government having determined their policy on this matter after sufficient deliberation, do not propose to remove the posters.

Casualties in the Natal Rising.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the number of Zulus reported as killed in the various engagements which have occurred during the Bambata rebellion, and what have been the losses in the Colonial troops.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Up to the present the numbers as reported to the Secretary of State in the telegrams he has received from the Governor relating to the operations in connection with the Bambata rebellion are, losses in the Colonial troops five killed, five wounded, besides two native policemen wounded. The number of Zulus reported killed is eighty-five.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): There are no reports of the wounded. Has the hon. Gentleman any information about them?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I will communicate my hon. friend's desire to the Secretary of State.

Natal Poll Tax Collection.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether official orders were given, and by whom, for the premature collection of the poll tax in Natal, in violation of Clause VI, of The Poll Tax Act, 1905, of the Natal Government.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Tax was due on the 1st of January. There was therefore no premature collection.

State Aid for Indian Schools.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state whether, and, if so, to what extent and under what circumstances, the schools of various denominations are State-aided in India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The aid given from public funds to schools other than Government schools in India is given solely in respect of secular instruction. No cognisance is taken of the religious teaching, if any, given in such schools. Many denominational schools are in fact aided by the State; but, as they are not shown separately in the returns, the number and the amount of the grants cannot be stated. The amount of the grant is determined by the necessities of the locality and class for which the school is provided, the efficiency of the school, the expenditure upon it from private sources, and other conditions, none of which has any reference to the teaching of religion.

Church Consecration in India.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, since January 1st, 1900, the Government of India has in regard to any buildings belonging to the Government of India, or built wholly or partially at its expense, sanctioned the performance of the rite of consecration according to the forms of the Church of England.

MR. MORLEY: The Secretary of State in Council decided in a despatch dated March 1st, 1900, that thenceforward no churches at military stations built wholly or partially at the public expense should be consecrated, except in places where separate provision existed or might be supplied for meeting the requirements of the Presbyterian and Wesleyan forms of worship. Since then the consecration of churches has been limited in accordance with this decision at all stations where British troops are quartered; but some assistance was given from public funds in four consecrated churches in Assam, which were built to supply the place of previously-existing consecrated churches which had been destroyed by an earthquake.

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the legal opinions given to Lord George Hamilton about the effect of the rite of consecration according to the forms of the Church of England, upon buildings built by or belonging to the Government of India; and whether, as a matter of practice under the rules made by the Governor-General of India in Council, to regulate the use of Government buildings for public worship, buildings so consecrated are available for public worship by Presbyterian and Wesleyan chaplains and troops, without previous licence from the authorities of the Church of England.

MR. MORLEY: It would be contrary to precedent to lay upon the Table legal opinions given by the law officers of the Crown, or other legal authorities consulted by the Government; but the hon Member will find the substance of those opinions stated in Lord George Hamilton's despatch of March 1st, 1900, printed at pages 47–48 of Command Paper No. 129 of 1900. As stated in that despatch the authority of the Bishop is by law necessary for the admission of services other than those of the Church of England in churches which have been consecrated for the service of that denomination.

Argentina.

MR. C. B. HARMSWORTH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the fact that numbers of persons have recently emigrated from South Africa to the Argentine Republic; that many of these persons are alleged to be in a state of destitution; will he say to what nationalities these persons belong; and whether he can state the causes of their emigration from South Africa.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): A party of some 140 persons arrived in the Argentine Republic from South Africa at the end of last year. The latest information received from the British Consul dated the middle of April was that the Colonists were reported to be suffering hardships, as many of them were living in tents, but he did not report that they were in a state of destitution. These persons were from the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and the Cape Colony, but most of them apparently from the Cape Colony. One of the chief causes is said to be dissatisfaction with the local conditions of South Africa, economic and social. The leading Dutch paper published in the Cape Colony, *Our Land*, has dissuaded people from going, but without complete success.

Local Taxation in Denmark.

MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will instruct the British Legation at Copenhagen to furnish such a Report on the system of local taxation in Denmark as will enable Members of this House to form a comparison as to the burden imposed by the rates upon agriculture in the United Kingdom and in Denmark respectively.

MR. RUNCIMAN: If my hon. friend will let me know what the precise points are to which the Report should be directed, instruction will be sent as desired.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): Will the import duties on agricultural produce in Denmark also be included in the return?

MR. RUNCIMAN: They are already provided by the Board of Trade.

Wei-hai-Wei.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether negotiations are in progress, or have been concluded, for the retrocession of Wei-hai-Wei to China, to be used by that Power for the purpose of a naval base.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Answer is in the negative.

Tashkent–Tomsk Railway.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information, which may be made public regarding the survey or commencement of the Tashkent–Tomsk Railway.

MR. RUNCIMAN: My attention has been called to a paragraph in the Russian Press to the effect that the question of constructing a line from Tashkent to Tomsk *via* Vierni and Semipalatinsk had been decided in the affirmative, and that a sum of 711,000 roubles had been allotted for preliminary surveys. I have no further information on the subject which can be given.

Death Duty Grants.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the amount of the Death Duty grants, under Section 19 of The Finance Act, 1894, collected in England, Ireland, and Scotland in the years 1895 to 1905; what is the ratio of the contribution of the three countries; what proportion of the total is devoted to the relief of local taxation; and in what proportion is that part divided between the three countries.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I would refer the hon. Member to the Annual Report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for 1904–5 [Cd. 2633], pages 247–249, which gives particulars on the subject raised in his Question.

Prosecutions for Sunday Trading.

MR. THORNE (West Ham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will grant a Return of the number of shopkeepers who have been summoned for Sunday trading under the Act of Charles II.; and whether the Government are prepared to promote legislation to repeal the Sunday Trading Act.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The figures of prosecutions for trading on Sunday are to be found in the annual volumes of Judicial Statistics. The totals for England and Wales were 2,925 in the year 1893, 3,729 in 1897, 4,950 in 1900, 5,510 in 1903, and 5,411 in 1904, but I must refer the hon. Member to the volumes quoted for the details of these prosecutions, which are very unevenly distributed throughout the country. As regards the latter part of the Question, the whole subject of Sunday trading is at present under consideration by a Joint Committee of the two Houses.

Mr. Hugh Watt.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has been furnished by the solicitors acting for Mr. Hugh Watt with a signed statement by Mrs. Lightfoot, and a statutory declaration by Hannah Parker, to the effect that the convict Lightfoot was not at any time during the month of August last, and down to and including the 15th September last, within 150 miles of London, and that on the morning of the 24th August last Lightfoot and his wife drove to Ripon and returned the same day at 7 p.m.; and whether, having regard to the bearing of these statements upon the evidence given at the recent trial of Hugh Watt, he has taken any, and, if so, what steps to test their accuracy.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have examined the statements referred to, but as at present advised I do not think that these statements, even if they should prove to be true, would afford any justification for my advising interference with the sentence. I am, however, making some inquiries, and when I have further considered the matter I will let the hon. Member know my decision.

Vaccination Exemption Certificate.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the repeated refusals of the Barrow magistrates to grant a certificate of exemption from vaccination to Mr. William Watts, of 20, Westmoreland Street, Barrow-in-Furness; and whether he will take any action in the matter.

*MR. GLADSTONE: My attention has not been called to the case in question, but I am at the present moment issuing from my Department a circular to Justices setting out what I am advised is the intention of the law respecting the grant of certificates of exemption.

Cabmen's Badge Fees.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the additional charge of 2s. 6d. for a cabman's badge, which was recently imposed, has been removed; and, if so, whether that sum has been refunded to those cabmen who had paid it.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The operation of the regulation referred to was suspended shortly after it came into force, pending the consideration of the matter by a Select Committee. It was, however, never intended to make any additional charge for a cabman's licence, but only to require a deposit of 2s. 6d., which would be returned when the badge was given up. Certain cabmen paid this deposit of 2s. 6d. before the operation of the regulation was suspended—in many cases the money has already been refunded; in those where it has not, it may be had on application at any police station, on production of the receipt.

Convict's Religion.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has yet ascertained the religious denomination of the convict mentioned in the recent Return showing the religious creeds and denominations of prisoners in His Majesty's prisons, and who was simply returned as suffering from delirium tremens.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am informed that the man belonged to the Church of England.

Case of W. B. Norris.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that convict No. Y 319, William Buffton Norris, is still detained at Parkhurst Convict Prison, although his sentence expired in December last, and his conduct during his imprisonment has been uniformly good; and if he will state on what grounds this man is not discharged to ticket-of-leave at once, seeing that his relatives are capable and eager to provide for him, no matter what his physical or mental state may be alleged to be by the prison authorities.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The hon. Member is mistaken as to the date of the expiry of this convict's sentence. The sentence does not expire until June 19th, 1908; and it has been impossible for me, in view of the convict's mental condition, to release him on ticket-of-leave. I have, however, a few days ago received an application from the convict's wife for his removal to a private asylum, and, if satisfactory arrangements for this purpose can be made, I hope to be able to allow his conditional discharge.

Firewood Industry and Cheap Labour.

MR. HODGE (Lancashire, Gorton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his attention has been directed to the practice of utilising the services of the unemployed by religious and philanthropic bodies at lower rates of wages than the ordinary market rate of wages, more particularly in the firewood industry, and the selling of the product at less than the current price, to the detriment of those regularly engaged in such industry, and of the payment by such bodies for such work in kind instead of in cash, in breach of the provisions of the Truck Acts; and what action, if any, he intends taking to compel compliance with the said Acts.

*MR. GLADSTONE: A communication on the subject has been received by me from the Firewood Cutter's Protection Society. I am advised that it is by no means clear that the Truck Acts would apply in the case of persons seeking aid from charitable institutions and the question of extending the Acts so as to cover such cases would involve considerable difficulties. I understand the point has been brought to the notice of the Committee on the Truck Acts which is now sitting, and it will no doubt receive their consideration.

Ex parte Police Court Applications.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department is he aware that application was, on Tuesday last, made to the magistrate at Bow Street by counsel for Alfred Mangena, a Natal native resident in London, to prefer sworn informations and depositions against Sir Henry M'Callum, the Governor of Natal, charging him with acts of oppression involving the illegal proclamation of martial law and the homicide of the twelve natives put to death on the 2nd of April last; and that the magistrate refused to hear the application otherwise than in camera and in the absence of a professional shorthand writer; and whether, having regard to the great public importance of the proceedings, the Government will take steps, in the event of any further application of a similiar character, to have an official shorthand note taken of the hearing of the application, and will lay the same upon the Table of this House.

*MR. GLADSTONE said that it was, he believed, the usual and proper course for a magistrate to whom an *ex parte* application was made to hear it in private. Obviously, great injustice might be done by giving publicity to applications of such a character. In the matter referred to by the hon. Member the Bow-Street magistrate appeared to have followed the usual course, and he saw no reason why it should have exceptional treatment. He would answer at the same time the unstarred Question of the hon. Member for Montgomery Boroughs,† at his request. Under existing law special provision was made for the trial in this country of Colonial Governors and others charged with offences in the Colonies, and proceedings for the purpose might be commenced at a police court. As at present advised he saw no sufficient grounds for proposing any amendment of the law. He thought that magistrates might be trusted with frivolous applications.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: This case is analagous to that of the Governor Eyre. Did the magistrate act on his own initiative?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have no power to interfere with magistrates in such matters.

Central Criminal Court.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether is aware that at the last sessions of the Central Criminal

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†The Question was as follows:—

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the attempt of individuals to lay informations against Colonial governors in the London police courts, in respect of acts preformed by them in their official capacity and approved by their Governments, action will be taken to amend the Law in this behalf, in order to the maintenance of the proper independence and dignity of such governors and Governments.

Court, out of the sixty-nine prisoners tried, no fewer than eighteen were found not guilty, while in three other cases the bills were ignored by the grand jury; and whether these and similar statistics will be referred to the proposed Royal Commission on Police Administration, with a view to the consideration by that body of the proportion of cases in which police evidence, acted upon by magistrates, is eventually found to be untrustworthy.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Question seems to me to show a misapprehension as to the respective duties of the committing magistrate and the court of trial. It is the duty of the magistrate to commit for trial if a *prima facie* case is established, but the jury is bound to acquit unless the absolute guilt of the prisoner is proved beyond all reasonable doubt. There must therefore always be a large proportion of acquittals among the cases committed for trial; and it would be an evil thing if it were otherwise. Further, in a large proportion of the cases, the question of guilt or innocence does not turn on police evidence. In these circumstances I do not think it would in any way assist the Commission in its inquiry if I were to refer to them these or any similar figures.

Railway Passenger Duty.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state the estimated amount of railway passenger duty that has been remitted to the railway companies who have a terminus in London up to 1905 under the Cheap Trains Act of 1883.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire): The receipts from railway passenger duty paid by London railway companies have declined from £620,000 in 1882 to £276,000 in 1905. But the Board of Inland Revenue do not see how it would be possible to estimate the proportions in which this decrease, and the decreases in the intervening years, should be attributed to the operation of the Cheap Trains Act, 1883, or to other conditions.

The Unemployed.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether a circular has been sent round to the various boards of guardians calling upon them to close the relief works and stoneyards which have been opened for the purpose of finding work for the unemployed; and, if so, whether the Board can suggest to the boards of guardians what kind of work should be undertaken to relieve the thousands of men who are out of employment in the various industrial centres.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): Labour yards are opened, not for the purpose of finding work for the unemployed, but of enabling the guardians to set able-bodied men to work as a condition of their receiving outdoor relief. The Local Government Board have not issued any circular to boards of guardians as to the closing of the labour yards, but in some instances the Board have, now that the winter is over, asked the guardians to consider the question of closing the labour yard. If the guardians, with their knowledge of the local circumstances, adopt this course, any destitute able-bodied male person applying for relief would be relieved in the workhouse, unless in a special case the guardians departed from the requirements of the regulations on the subject, and the Board assented to their doing so.

MR. THORNE put a supplementary Question which Mr. Burns declined to answer on the ground that it did not arise out of that on the Paper.

Post Office Changes.

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state how many post offices changed hands during the year 1905.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The total number of post offices to which new appointments were made during the year 1905 is 1,970.

Dismissal from the Postal Service.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the dismissal of E. C. Feasey, of Walsall, who has been an efficient officer in the postal service for seventeen years; whether he can say what was the cause of such dismissal, and if any offence was committed; whether such offence was connected with his duties in his Department or referred to some private matter; and whether he will consider the question of the man's reinstatement.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have looked into the circumstances connected with the dismissal by my predecessor of E. C. Feasey, formerly a town postman at Walsall. I find that Feasey had a most unsatisfactory record and that by his private affairs he was bringing discredit on the Department. I am not prepared to consider the question of his reinstatement.

Post Office Employees and Vaccination.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will consider the advisability of allowing the employees of his Department who have a conscientious objection to vaccination to claim exemption from such.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The question is one affecting the whole Civil Service. I do not see my way to make a change.

Mail-Driving Contracts.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will furnish the following information respecting each current contract for mail-driving in the metropolis, the name of the contractor, the period of the contract, and the date of its determination.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will send the hon. Member a statement giving the information he desires.

Bishop's Stortford College—Dismissal of Mr. Kitchener.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that Mr. Kitchener, one of the masters at Bishop's Stortford College, has recently been dismissed because he joined the Roman Catholic Church, whether Bishop's Stortford College is a rate-aided school carried on in connection with a Nonconformist denomination; and what reason was given by the head master for the dismissal.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The incident referred to took place in December, 1904, but I know nothing about it beyond what appeared at the time in the public Press. I understand that the school was at that time in receipt of aid from the county council and that this is still the case. Neither then nor at any time since has the school been in receipt of any grants from the Board of Education. In a reply given on February 28th last year to a Question in the House the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education stated that he did not consider the matter one in which the Board should properly intervene.† So far as I can see I have absolutely no jurisdiction whatsoever in regard to it.

LORD R. CECIL asked for an Answer to the last paragraph.

MR. BIRRELL: I understand the reason was given in one of the letters.

Irish Butter Statistics.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he will take steps to see that the value of Irish butter imported into England every year is ascertained, as in the case of Danish butter.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I understand that the question of the improvement of the statistics of trade between Great Britain and Ireland is engaging the attention of the Board of Trade and the Irish Department of Agriculture. Legislation is probably necessary for the purpose.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Will the hon. Gentleman introduce legislation on the subject?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: I cannot promise.

The Colonial Conference.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in reference to a statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that a Colonial Conference will be held in April, at which it is the desire of the Government to promote measures for closer unity of the Empire; whether that Conference is to be confined to representatives of His Majesty's Government and of the self-governing Colonies; or whether India and other portions of the Empire will be represented, with due regard to the importance within the Empire of their population, trade, revenue, and expenditure on Imperial purposes.

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† See (4) *Debates,* cxli., 1462.

*Mr. REES: I beg also to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether at the Conference to be held in April, 1907, at which the Colonies will be represented, the different provinces of the Indian Empire will be represented by official and non-official representatives, in order that a reasonable and properly preponderating representation may be accorded to our greatest foreign possession.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs): The invitations to the Colonial Conference of 1907 have, as in the case of the previous Colonial Conferences, been made to the Prime Ministers of the self-governing Colonies. His Majesty's Goverment do not intend to propose that the Crown Colonies should be specially represented at the next Conference, but we are of opinion that India should be represented.

Criminal Appeal Bill.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the Criminal Appeal Bill was read a second time in another place on March 27th last, he can add anything to the information already given as to the prospects of such measure being passed into law during the present session.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir, I have no further information to give. It is not in the power of the Government, at this period of the session, to pledge themselves and to pledge the House of Commons as to the passing of any particular measure. We shall do our best to pass this Bill, but of course our success will depend, in a large degree, on whether the House is willing to dispense with any lengthy discussion.

Scottish Supply.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will take Scotch Estimates on Thursday, June 14th.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, Sir; that is the intention.

Royal Commission on Sea Erosion.

*Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he has yet appointed the Royal Commission to inquire into the defence of the coast from sea erosion; if so, who are the members of the Commission; and whether they will take evidence in the districts of Ireland bordering on the sea.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am sorry that I cannot as yet give the hon. Member the information for which he asks in the first part of his Question. With regard to the hearing of evidence affecting Ireland, I have no doubt that the Commission will take all necessary steps to enable them to submit an adequate report on the matters referred to them.

*Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Will an Irishman be appointed on the Commission?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not sure of that.

*Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Why not?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: If the hon. Member means why I am not sure, the Answer is because I do not know. The selection of members does not primarily rest with me, and so I have no reason to know at this stage. But if the hon. Member means to ask why an Irish member should not be appointed, the Answer is that I did not say that an Irish member would not be appointed.

The Lords' Rejection of the Aliens Bill.

Mr. J. WARD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the rejection of the Aliens Bill by the other House; whether, in view of the fact that such Bill passed this House unanimously, he will undertake at an early date to reintroduce the Bill into the other place and give it the sanction and assistance of His Majesty's Government; and whether he will submit to the appreciation of this House and the country a measure which will insure that in the future important Bills, which have received the assent of the representatives of the people, will become law without unnecessary delay.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): May I ask whether it is not open to any peer to move the Second Reading of this Bill again, and what the Lords have to do with the authorship of Bills sent from the House of Commons? Is not the unanimous opinion of the House of Commons good enough for them?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That Question is rather of an abstruse and argumentative character. As to the Question of the hon. Member for Stoke, I cannot give the undertaking desired. It is, in our opinion, an unconstitutional attitude on the part of an Opposition to reject a Bill apart from its merits merely on the ground that the Government have not taken it up, and we are not disposed by our action in this case to sanction any such precedent. My hon. friend may be sure that the serious subject raised in the last paragraph of his Question is not likely to escape the attention of his Majesty's Government.

Irish Market Tolls.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will the Estates Commissioners take advantage of the sale of an estate, comprising the site of a fair or market at which a toll or other charge is levied by the landlord upon people transacting business, either to enfranchise the fair or market or to have the amount of the charge applied to the improvement of the place and the relief of local taxation.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that up to the present they have not purchased the site of any fair or market at which a toll is levied by the landlord. In any event, they are not aware of any provision in the Act of 1903, or any other Act, which would enable them to enfranchise a fair or market on any estate which they might purchase, or to apply the amount of the charges to the improvement of the locality and the relief of local taxation.

Lansdowne Estates, Queen's County.

MR. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the settlement of the evicted tenants on the Lansdowne Estates in Luggacurran, Queen's County, the Estates Commissioners entered into a contract for the erection of seven houses for the tenants, that it was a condition in the contract that the houses were to be completed and ready for occupation last December, and is he aware that none of the houses are yet finished, and that very little progress is being made with the work; whether, seeing that under the scheme of settlement other houses were to be built, he can say how many and if any steps have been taken to obtain contracts; if not, will he direct that contracts shall be obtained and the building proceeded with in order that the tenants may get into occupation before winter; and is he aware that one of the tenants has to walk seven miles from his lodging to his farm, and the other tenants in a lesser degree are subject to inconvenience and loss by the delay in having the houses erected.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that it was a condition of the contract that the houses referred to were to be completed in March last. Owing, however, to unforeseen difficulties, the contractor was unable to complete the work within the time limited, but anticipates that it will now shortly be finished. The Commissioners are making preparations for the erection of fifteen other houses on this estate, and they are aware that until the houses are built some temporary inconvenience must necessarily be caused to those for whom the houses are intended. There will be no avoidable delay.

Irish Petty Sessions Clerks.

MR. MEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what are the qualifications, conditions of service, and method of appointment of clerks of petty sessions in Ireland, and whether there is any examination or other test of qualification applied to the candidates; and, if not, seeing that the salaries average about £120 per annum, and that nearly all appointments of public positions are conditional on the candidates passing a test examination, he will arrange that all appointments to the office of petty sessions clerk in Ireland shall be made only from candidates who have successfully passed a competitive examination open to all persons wishing to compete.

MR. BRYCE: Petty sessions clerks must on appointment be between twenty-one and forty years of age, but the age limit is extended to fifty years in the case of persons who have filled certain specified positions affording a legal training. A clerk holds office during the pleasure of the magistrates of the district and of the Lord-Lieutenant. The election of clerks is by statute vested in the magistrates, and the appointment is subject to the approval of the Lord-Lieutenant. A clerk after election is required to pass a qualifying examination in literary and technical subjects, including, in the case of the larger districts, the elementary principles of criminal law. The salary depends on the size of the district and the length of service of the clerk, the average initial salary being about £70. As these appointments are governed by statute, there is no power to throw them open to competitive examination. I understand that the present system has worked well.

Arms Act in Ireland.

MR. MEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in how many counties in Ireland is the Peace Preservation or Arms Act in force, and will he give the names of the counties exempted; is he aware that under this Act the right to grant gun licences is reserved to resident magistrates; whether, seeing that licences have been refused to men of the highest character, he will give the number refused and the grounds of refusal; and, as this Act has to be renewed each year under the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, will he say if he intends to renew the Act; and, if so, will he arrange that the power of granting gun licences to farmers and others who require a gun for the protection of their crops from vermin shall be given to the magistrates sitting in petty sessions.

MR. BRYCE: The Peace Preservation Act is in force in all the counties of Ireland with the exception of the counties of Londonderry, Louth, and Wicklow. It applies, however, to portions only of the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Donegal, Down, Monaghan, and Tyrone. The proclamations made under the Act empower resident magistrates to issue licences within their respective districts, and empower the Inspector-General and Deputy-Inspector-General of Constabulary to issue licences throughout Ireland generally. A return of the number of licences issued and refused is published each month in the Dublin Gazette, but the Irish Government have no information as to the grounds of refusal in any case. The working of this Act is under my consideration, but I cannot, as at present advised, say that no provisions respecting the possession of arms are needed, nor do I feel sure that any licensing power ought to be vested in the magistrates sitting in petty sessions.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Is not this part of the repressive legislation which forms the coercion code in Ireland? Do the Government intend to continue its existence?

MR. BRYCE: The matter is under my consideration.

Mr. Boyd's Castleconnor Estate.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that untenanted lands belonging to Mr. Boyd, at Castleconnor, county Sligo, have, at the landlord's request, been inspected by order of the Estates Commissioners, and that the Estates Commissioners intimated to Mr. Boyd the price which they would be prepared to give for the untenanted lands, and that Mr. Boyd declined to accept such price; whether he is aware that Mr. Boyd recently sold the untenanted lands in lots and created present tenancies, with the object of having the recently untenanted lands sold to the new tenants under the Land Act of 1903; and can he say whether, in this case, the purchase money will be advanced by the Estates Commissioners in the event of an agreement being come to by the owner and the new tenants for a sale under the provisions of the Land Act of 1903.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the facts are as stated in the first part of this Question. The Commissioners are not aware of any subsequent proceedings in respect of the estate mentioned. If proceedings for the sale of any of the lands to newly created tenants should be instituted before the Commissioners they will, when considering the question whether they will declare the lands to be an estate, have due regard to the circumstances under which such new tenancies were created.

Mr. Johnston's Drumkeerin Estate.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Johnston, landlord of an estate at and around Drumkeerin, in the county of Leitrim, has taken proceedings against some of his tenants to recover rent which only fell due on the first of the present month; and whether, seeing that terms of purchase on this estate were almost agreed upon, the difference between the reduction offered by the landlord and that demanded by the tenants being only 6d. in the pound, he will, under the circumstances, request the Estates Commissioners to intervene with the object of effecting a settlement, and obviating the cost and irritation of the proceedings now threatened.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are at present in communication with the parties in this case with a view to effecting a settlement, if possible.

Irish Land—Sales at Excessive Prices.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland have the Estates Commissioners, within the last two months, disallowed the sale of any estate on the ground of excessive price; if so, has their disallowance, with the reason for it, been communicated directly to each tenant whom it affected; and will the Commissioners in future regularly communicate such decisions to all tenants whom they affect respectively.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that in no case within the last two months have they disallowed the sale of an estate upon the ground of excessive price. In every case in which an application for an advance is finally refused, the tenant is duly notified of the fact.

Untenanted Lands.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will arrange that the Local Government Board shall send a copy of the forthcoming Return of Untenanted Land as soon as ready to the rural council of each district in which the Return shows land of that class to exist, together with a letter informing the council of the facilities afforded by the Land Act of 1903 for distributing such land, all the various modes of distribution, and the benefits derivable therefrom.

MR. BRYCE: The Parliamentary Return in question will in the ordinary course be on sale to the public. It is not the practice of the Local Government Board to distribute such papers gratuitiously to local authorities. The Board have no functions to perform in connection with land purchase, and it would be highly undesirable that they, or any other executive department, should attempt to define or interpret, for general information, the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts. The functions of the Estates Commissioners in regard to untenanted land are explained in the published reports which anyone can purchase.

Morrogh Bernard Estate, Kerry.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the inspector sent by the Estates Commissioners to deal with the question of evicted tenants on the Morrogh Bernard estate, county Kerry, has instructions only to deal with the cases of evicted tenants mentioned by the estate agent; whether such instructions will cause some of the evicted tenants to be neglected; and whether he will give instructions to the Commissioners to have inquiries made and a settlement effected of all the cases of evicted tenants on the estate.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that up to the present their inspector has inspected the holdings only of the four evicted tenants on this estate who have signed agreements to purchase. The inspector has not received such instructions as mentioned in the Question. The Commissioners, however, intend to have inquiries made into the cases of the other evicted tenants on the estate.

Newtowngore Evicted Tenant.

MR. T. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application from Mrs. Bridget M'Caffrey, widow of the late Hugh M'Caffrey, with reference to her being reinstated on the farm from which her husband and herself were evicted in March, 1883, on the estate of Mrs. Upperton, Newtowngore, county Leitrim; also if there has been an offer made for the sale of this estate, and, if so, will he see that the sale is not carried out without giving due consideration to the evicted tenant's application to be reinstated under the provisions of the Land Act of 1903, the holding being at present in the occupation of the landlord.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received an application for reinstatement from Patrick M'Caffrey, son of Mrs. Bridget M'Caffrey, and that they will have the application inquired into by one of their inspectors in due course. No proceedings in respect of the sale of the estate on which the evicted farm is situate have yet been instituted before the Commissioners.

West and South Clare Railway.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the county of Clare has a liability of 2 per cent. on £283,000 in perpetuity on the West and South Clare Railway; that the Treasury has also a similar liability on this railway; that the ratepayers have to pay over £7,500 a year for the railway which runs on Merchant's Quay, Kilrush; and whether he will take any steps to have the control of this quay vested in the county council of Clare for the benefit of the ratepayers.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Board of Works that the capital of the West and South Clare Railways together is £283,520. The liability of the county is to pay dividends on the capital at 4 per cent., and also any deficit on working. The Treasury liability is to re-pay to the county half the amount which the county pays as dividends up to a maximum of 2 per cent. The net amount paid by the county in respect of both lines, allowing for the recoupment made from the Local Taxation Account, was, in 1904, £6,254, and in 1905, £6,212. I have already explained to the hon. Member that the Court of Appeal have decided the quay to be private property, and that I have no power to have it given over to the county council.

Cork and the Exchequer Grant.

MR. EDWARD BARRY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state in what proportion is the Exchequer grant of £40,000 divided amongst the Irish counties; how much has been given out of this grant to the county of Cork from 1891–1905; what amount was given to Cork for the year ended March, 1906; and how much of the total has been unexpended in Cork.

MR. BRYCE: The sum divisible amongst the counties is, approximately, £37,000 per annum, as about £3,000 of the grant goes to the six municipal boroughs. The shares of the counties are determined in the same way as if the money were the estate duty grant, namely, on the basis of the certified expenditure of the counties on roads and bridges in the year 1887. The grant did not become available until 1896, because for five years after the passing of the Land Purchase Act, 1891, it was, in pursuance of that Act, accumulated to form a reserve fund of £200,000 in respect of land purchase. During the ten years which have elapsed since 1896 the amount paid to the county of Cork for labourers' cottages has been £34,871, of which the sum of £3,466 was paid in respect of the year ended March 31st, last. No portion of the grant remains unexpended in the case of the county of Cork.

Mr. O'Meara's Abbeyville Estate.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland why the Estates Commissioners have not as yet visited the estate of Mr. William H. O'Meara, situate at Abbeyville, Lorrha, county Tipperary, which has been sold to the tenants, the agreements having been signed on October 9th, 1904, and lodged with the Estates Commissioners on July 8th, 1905; also when will the estate be visited and a valuation of the same made.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that it is the fact that agreements for purchase in this case were lodged with them in July, 1905. Estates are inspected in the order of priority in which purchase agreements are lodged, and the Commissioners do not anticipate that the estate in question will be reached during the present year.

Maguire Estate, County Leitrim.

MR. T. SMYTH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that several tenants on the Maguire estate, in county Leitrim, were served with final notices for the sale of the property in 1895, and that the hearing was adjourned from time to time without assigning any cause; that a Commissioner visited the estate in 1902, who informed the tenants that the lands were in the Land Judge's Court, and that those who had notices served for second-term fixtures would get the equivalent or three years purchase; that when the tenants appeared before Judge Ross the Commissioner, whose name was Mr. Roberts, stated that they agreed to buy at a higher purchase, which was twenty years; the tenants objected, and explained the case to the judge, who gave judgment for them; that their case was neglected, while some of the tenants on other portions of the property bought their holdings in 1904; that the receiver on the estate, who is sub-sheriff of Cavan, has notified the tenants who have not bought that he is prepared to accept offers, and that he will give reductions of 2s., 4s., and 6s. in the pound; and whether he will instruct the Estates Commissioners to investigate the case.

MR. BRYCE: The Registrar of the Land Judge's Court informs me that, with one exception, all of the thirty-four tenants on this estate were offered their holdings under the 40th Section of the Act of 1896. As a result, twenty-eight of the tenants purchased, and their holdings have been vested in them. The remainder refused the terms offered, being dis-satisfied with the turbary allotments assigned to them. The Registrar states that it is not the case there was any adjournment without cause assigned. The Assistant Commissioner who visited the estate for the purposes of the Land Commission is dead, and there is now no means of ascertaining what statements he may have made to the tenants. He had, however, no authority to make any statement as regards price, which was a matter for the Land Judge, and he did not as a matter of fact make any report to the Land Judge on the subject. I am informed that the remaining tenants are now negotiating with the receiver for the purchase of their holdings, but it will be for the Land Judge to determine whether their offers should be accepted. The matter is not one, in its present stage, for the Estates Commissioners.

Challenging of Jurors in Ireland.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Irish Government to introduce legislation dealing with the assumed right of the Crown to unlimited challenge without cause assigned in trials by jury in Ireland; can he state approximately when such legislation will be introduced; and, in the event of the Irish Government's neglect or refusal to introduce such legislation, will he take steps to abolish trial by jury in agrarian and political cases in Ireland.

MR. BRYCE: It is not proposed to introduce legislation on the subject during the present session, but I may remind the hon. Member of the instructions regarding the practice of directing jurors to stand by which were issued by my right hon. friend the Attorney-General this spring, and the substance of which he stated in this House.

Lord Ashbrook's King's County Estate.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of evictions which have taken place on the estate of Lord Ashbrook, in King's County, since 1903, and the number of evictions pending on this estate, decrees having been obtained;

whether he will obtain from the police authorities in King's County and the Crown officials the exact number of those evicted who were first turned into caretakers under Section 7 of the Land Act of 1887, and the number turned into caretakers not yet evicted, with the cost of the entire proceedings; whether he is aware that these tenants are weighed down with arrears of a rack rent; and whether, in view of the general circumstances of the estate, the Estates Commissioners propose to take any action.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Inspector-General that, so far as the police are aware, three tenants only have been evicted from this estate since 1903, and in one of these cases the evicted tenant became a caretaker under Section 7 of the Act of 1887. The cost to the public of affording protection to the sheriff was £1 10s. 3d. I have no information as to any other costs in the matter, nor as to whether the tenants were rack-rented. I presume they could have had fair rents fixed if they had so desired. As to the action of the Estates Commissioners, I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member's Question of Wednesday last.†

Obsolete Crown Rents in Ireland.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in several cases on allocation of purchase money under the Irish Land Purchase Acts claims have been made on the part of the Crown, and allowed, in respect of obsolete Crown rents which had not been paid for upwards of 100 years; that in one case an arrear of 170 years was claimed and had to be allowed, as there was no statute of limitation available against the Crown in Ireland; and whether he will procure an Amendment to be made in the Crown Lands Bill with a view to a reasonable period of limitation against claims of the Crown in Ireland.

MR. MCKENNA: Claims are never now made in respect of quit or Crown rents which have remained unpaid for sixty years or upwards, though there was a legal decision some years ago that the Nullum Tempus Acts, by which Crown claims to land are barred after sixty years, do not apply to quit and Crown rents. I hope, however, to introduce an Amendment in the Crown Lands Bill which, if carried, will have the effect of making the law conform with the existing practice in this respect.

Cork and Fermoy Railway.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London, in reply to a Question, stated on July 18th, 1901,† that there was no doubt that this company (Fishguard and Rosslare Railway Company) are pledged to construct the line from Cork to Fermoy, and the Treasury neither have the power, nor would they exercise it if they did possess it, of sanctioning any escape from that Parliamentary obligation; and will he say if the railway company was under obligation to connect the railway termini in Cork; if the Treasury is now offering a portion of the £93,000, placed in connection with the sale of the County Waterford Railway, at the disposal of the Hybrid Committee which investigated the matter in 1898, for railway development in the South of Ireland, towards connecting railways in the city of Cork; and will he take steps to secure that such expenditure of public funds will not enable these railway companies to further evade their obligations to Parliament.

MR. MCKENNA: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The obligation laid upon the Fishguard Company as regards the connection at Cork is contained in Sub-section 12 of Section 68 of the Act of 1898, which enacts that the company shall "use their best endeavours to obtain the assent and co-operation of the Cork Commissioners and the corporation of Cork, and of the Cork, Bandon, and South Coast and Cork and Macroom Railway Companies"; and it is understood that this co-operation would not have been adequate without Government assistance. No portion of the £93,000 is or has been placed at the disposal of any Committee. The Treasury has, however, stated that, in the event of the Cork City Railways and Works Bill being approved by the Committee and passing into law, it will be prepared on certain conditions to invite Parliament at a convenient opportunity to contribute £25,000 to the purposes of the Bill.

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† See Column 491.

† See (4) *Debates*, xcvii., 856.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the Hybrid Committee recommended that none of this money should be given to any railway that did not comprehend a direct railway service between Cork and Waterford? I wish to know whether this scheme, which is now to have a contribution of £25,000, has any such provision attached to it.

MR. McKENNA was understood to say that the hon. Gentleman's assumption was correct.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) asked whether £25,000 was the sum to be given. £50,000 had been mentioned as the amount.

MR. McKENNA: Yes, I did say £25,000. A sum of £65,000 was mentioned formerly as possible to be obtained if a local contribution of £50,000 was received in respect of the scheme which last year was to cost £200,000. The total cost of the present scheme is £98,000, and under these circumstances the Treasury consider that a grant of £25,000 is sufficient.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR: Do the Treasury consider it equitable to divert this money from the purposes for which it was originally intended? This money is a contribution by the Treasury in consideration of money subscribed by certain baronies in Waterford for Waterford purposes. [NATIONALIST cries of "No."] But it was, and I wish to ask whether the Treasury consider it fair to give any of the money towards any railway scheme unconnected with Cork and Waterford.

MR. McKENNA said the Treasury had given the matter full consideration.

MR. MOONEY (Newry) asked whether the hon. Gentleman would make public the conditions under which the Treasury were prepared to grant this sum. Was it not a fact that one of the conditions was that the Treasury should be satisfied, after a Committee of the House had passed the Bill, that the scheme from an engineering point of view was a satisfactory one. Was the Treasury to have that power of practically overriding a decision of the House?

MR. McKENNA said there was no question of the decision of the House being overridden. The Committee would meet on Wednesday and, as he understood the position, would then consider their decision, having regard to the amount of the Treasury grant.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR asked whether, seeing that they were flying in the face of the recommendation of the Joint Committee of both Houses, the Treasury would undertake to reconsider the whole matter.

*THE SPEAKER said the hon. Member should give notice of that Question.

Irish Local Taxation Collection.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is the custom of the Inland Revenue Department in Great Britain to collect all moneys for the local taxation account free of charge; does a like custom prevail in Ireland; and are fees charged in either country for auditing the accounts of local authorities.

MR. McKENNA: No charge is made by the Inland Revenue Department for the collection of moneys for the local taxation account either in Great Britain or Ireland. In both England and Ireland I am informed that in cases where their accounts are audited by Government auditors payments are made by the local authorities in respect of this audit.

Fishguard and Rosslare Railway.

MR. POWER: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that it was agreed by the terms of The Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbour Act, 1898, that the railway company was not to be paid £93,000 by the Treasury until they had completed the line from Rosslare to Waterford and the line from Fermoy and Dunkettle, and that an effort was made in July, 1901, by the railway company to induce the Treasury to assent to the abandonment of the Fermoy and Dunkettle line to Cork, and to transfer the £93,000 to a scheme to join the several railways in Cork; and will he say if the Treasury refused the application of the railway company.

Mr. McKENNA: Under the Schedule to the Act referred to the Treasury agreed to pay the sum of £93,000 to the Fishguard Company upon the fulfilment of certain conditions, one of which was the construction of a line between Fermoy and Dunkettle. The railway company in 1901 sought to be relieved of this statutory obligation and to obtain the £93,000 in the manner suggested, and this application was refused.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) asked whether the Rosslare and Fishguard Company had given the Treasury any assurance that they would now make the line between Fermoy and Cork.

Mr. McKENNA: No, Sir, I am not aware that they have.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Have the promoters of this Bill given the Treasury any assurance that in return for this money the line to Fethard will be made?

Mr. McKENNA replied in the negative.

Mr. JOHN O'CONNOR: I will bring the matter up on the Estimates, and I strongly advise the hon. Member to reconsider his decision.

Kerry County Council and the Irish Language.

Mr. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that official communications to members of the Kerry County Council have been delayed in delivery owing to the fact that they have been addressed in the Irish language; whether this delay arises owing to such communications having to be sent to Dublin for translation; and whether, having regard to the practice of most of the public bodies in the county of Kerry addressing communications to members in Irish, he will take steps to secure that in the post offices of the principal towns of the county at least one official understands the native language of Ireland.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: Correspondence addressed in the Irish language in Kerry has to be sent to Dublin for translation. I do not see my way to take the step indicated by the hon. Member.

The Signalling of Divisions.

Mr. BYLES asked whether the attention of the Speaker had been called to the fact that, owing to the failure of the electric bells on Thursday, a large number of Members engaged in the Committee rooms upstairs were shut out from the first division on that day; whether that division would nevertheless be entered on the Journals of the House without explanation; and whether, in the case of any similar accident in future, the doors might not be left open until Members within the precincts of the House had had time to be warned.

*Mr. SPEAKER: My attention was called to the fact that the system for ringing electric bells failed to act. I think the remedy which the hon. Member has suggested is an impracticable one. The police have instructions to call out in a loud voice that a division is about to take place. As long as we rely partly on mechanical means I fear that occasionally—although I am glad to think very rarely—accidents will happen. I am afraid I cannot suggest any remedy for them.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND asked as to the course of business.

Mr. BRYCE said he had hoped to be able to introduce the Irish Labourers Bill on Wednesday, and he trusted that it would be introduced not later than Monday or Tuesday next week.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he anticipated that the Motion for the adjournment for the Whitsuntide recess would be made on Wednesday next week, and that the House would rise the same night and meet again on Thursday in the following week. In reply to Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil), the right hon. Gentleman said the Committee tage of the Trade Disputes Bill and the introduction of the Bill on the unemployed could not be taken before Whitsuntide. Answering Mr. A.J. Balfour (City of London) the right hon. Gentleman said that on Thursday next it was proposed to take the Navy Votes, with the exception of those relating to shipbuilding, which would be deferred to a later period of the Session.

SELECTION (POLICE AND SANITARY COMMITTEE).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged Colonel Williams from the Police and Sanitary Committee; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield).

NEW BILLS.

EDUCATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903," presented by Sir John Brunner; supported by Sir William Anson, Mr. Burt, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Eve, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Masterman, Mr. George White, Mr. Whitley, and Mr. Yoxall; to be read a second time upon Monday, 18th June, and to be printed. [Bill 220.]

CHARITABLE LOAN SOCIETIES (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Acts relating to Charitable Loan Societies in Ireland," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr Bryce; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 221.]

TOWN HOLDINGS BILL.

"To give compensation to occupying tenants of Town Holdings for beneficial improvements," presented by Mr. Rowlands; supported by Mr. Channing, Sir Walter Foster, Sir John Brunner, Sir James Woodhouse, and Dr. Pollard; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd June, and to be printed. [Bill 222.]

METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) asked leave to introduce a Bill "to facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to hold an inquiry respecting the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation in the streets." The Bill he said closely followed the lines of the Bill of last year investing the South African War Stores Commission with the necessary statutory powers. Consequently, the names of the Commissioners were recited in the Bill, viz.:—Mr. Alfred Lyttelton (chairman). Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., M.P., Mr. D. Brynmor Jones, K.C. M.P., and Mr. C. A. Whitmore. The changes in this Bill from that of last year were the omission of the indemnity clause and the provision to enable the Commission to send Sub commissioners of inquiry abroad. Last year's Bill went through the House unopposed in a very short time. For obvious reasons it was most desirable that this Bill should pass all its stages at the earliest possible date, and he hoped the House would give it the necessary facilities.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to hold an inquiry respecting the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation in the streets."

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I desire to know how it is there is no Labour Member included on this Commission?

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Gladstone and Mr. Herbert Samuel.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION) BILL.

"To facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to hold an inquiry respecting the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation in the streets," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 223.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Order for Committee read.

*MR. SPEAKER: The first three Instructions on the Paper are out of order because the matters dealt with can be raised on the Bill either by new clauses or by way of Amendments.†

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) rose to move that it be an Instruction to the Committee, "That they have power to deal separately with Part IV. (Council for Wales), and to report the same to the House as a separate Bill. He said that the appearance of this Instruction upon the Paper would create little surprise amongst those acquainted with the provisions of the Bill." In moving the Instruction it would not be necessary for him to say anything which would give offence to any of the many representatives of Welsh opinion. With regard to Welsh questions, however, it behoved the House to order their proceedings with especial care when they reflected that in Wales there was a large and influential minority totally unrepresented in the House, and, in a large majority of instances, practically excluded from a semblance of power upon any of the elected local authorities. He submitted this Instruction upon grounds which need not excite any of the animosities which might possibly arise upon other parts of the Bill. He moved it, firstly, upon the ground that the clause ought not to have its fate tied up with the rest of this self-contained, but nevertheless quite sufficiently extensive measure. Separate treatment of the clause was advisable in the interests of peace. There was already quite enough in the Bill to excite bitterness and give rise to suspicion without matters being added which necessarily raised the fear that there was an attempt on foot to give Welshmen the power of supervising education in England without allowing Englishmen the corresponding right of supervising educational matters in Wales. In the interests of good draughtsmanship and symmetry in our legislation this question should be dealt with separately. The clause was not a reform of education, but it might be regarded as the beginning of an organic or structural change in our system so great and far-reaching as to deserve the name of a constitutional change. When the House read the Bill a second time it was under a considerable misconception as to the genesis of the aims of this clause. In describing the proceedings of the conference which expressed in Wales an opinion upon this question the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, with quite pardonable optimism, conveyed to the House the view that the voluntaryists in Wales had practically agreed to the principle, if not to some of the details, of this clause. If the information which had reached him was correct, the most that the voluntaryists at that conference agreed to was the creation of some kind of central council for Wales, and that might very well amount to no more than the kind of proposal which he believed had been under the consideration of Lord Londonderry, namely, some kind of council consisting of delegates from all the local education authorities in Wales but wielding powers no greater than each local authority wielded in its own district. He was also advised that the voluntaryists at that conference never contemplated and never sanctioned anything like superseding the powers of the Board of Education in Wales to such an extent as to set up an executive department of the State responsible to no legislative body whatever. They did agree to the abstract idea of a Welsh Council, but they did not intend to do anything like ousting the only independent external authority which could at present arbitrate between disputing authorities, which were only too likely to be seen in conflict one with another in matters of administration under this Bill. Another impression which the President of the Board of Trade conveyed in his very interesting speech on the Second Reading was that this clause conferred no power upon any council to legislate. Nobody said it did, but it must be quite clear that the clause might very well create a great deal of power without creating legislative power, and the clauses conferring power of this kind most deserving of scrutiny, if not of suspicion, were those which gave large powers of administrative and executive action of the very kind that admitted of unjust discrimination and oppression of all kinds, and which would be exercised free from the control which restrained Departments responsible to this House. It was clear that the power of the purse was about to be conferred on the Welsh council, by the Imperial grant being handed over to that body for distribution amongst the local authorities, and that power must be a source of and afford an opportunity for a great deal of injustice. What the House ought to be jealous of was the conferring of irresponsible powers to do injustice or make unfair discriminations of any kind. The Welsh Council in Wales would practically be judges in their own cause.

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†The Instructions referred to were as follows:

MR. WINFREY: That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to provide that Education Committees, constituted under Section 17 (1) of the Education Act, 1902, shall consist in part or entirely of persons directly elected by the ratepayers for this purpose only; and that all powers and duties of the education authorities shall be exercised by and through the Education Committees.

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD: That it be an Instruction to the Committee that it have power to provide that it be a condition of the recognition of any public elementary school that the education given during school hours and at the public expense shall be in secular subjects only.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY: That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert into the Bill a clear definition of the particulars of the religious instruction which in future is to be given at the cost of the nation in all public elementary schools where the local education authority authorises religious instruction to be given.

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman now seems to be discussing the merits of the clause. That is not relevant on the Instruction.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY said the clause would impose an almost incalculable amount of labour upon the House in passing this Bill through Committee. He submitted that it was not a clause which the Bill ought to carry, for it was really a constitutional change which should be discussed under other conditions and at another time. He hoped the Government would see fit to make this change while there was yet time. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Education (England and Wales) Bill that they have power to deal separately with Part IV. (Council for Wales), and to report the same to the House as a separate Bill."—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said the Government could not see their way to accept this proposal. It was no fault of the Government that all the representatives for Wales were of one way of thinking. He quite agreed that the proposal to establish this council in Wales might very properly be considered separately by itself, but on the other hand they had an Education Bill relating to England and Wales before the House. and he saw no reason why they should not attempt to secure what they considered was a very reasonable reform. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Hallam division of Sheffield had admitted that there was floating about in people's minds an abstract idea of a council. What an abstract idea of a council was he hardly knew, but at all events everybody was aware of the fact that there had been a great disposition on the part of all authorities in Wales, belonging to the Church of England as well as to Nonconformist bodies, to believe that a time was coming when they might do for themselves in the matter of elementary education what they had done for themselves in the region of intermediate education with so much success. Believing that this could be clothed in proper form so as to represent the real wishes of the people, whose zeal for education could not be denied, the Government had thought fit to include this proposal in their measure. As a matter of administration everybody who had had anything to do with the administration of education at Whitehall knew very well that Welsh subjects and Welsh questions formed a part by themselves and were subject to considerations which did not apply so much to other parts of the country. He thought there would be no difficulty whatsoever, if wise counsels prevailed and wise methods were devised in handing to a people whole zeal for education was admitted the control in some important respects of the disposition of public money set aside for elementary education in Wales. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that they had a great deal of work before them in this Bill, and he thought that the best thing they could do was to set about it at once, and see whether they could not grapple with this difficulty as well as with the many others before them.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said the right hon. Gentleman had not removed the difficulty as to whether Part IV. should be included in the Bill or not, It seemed to him to depend almost entirely on what the intention was. A statement was made in the Second Reading debate by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade in which he gave his version and interpretation of the clause. If that interpretation stood, then he thought his right hon. friend's Motion was well founded. The President of the Board of Trade delivered what might be called a good-natured, but that the same time rather strong censure on the Leader of the Opposition for the opinion he had expressed with regard to the appropriateness of including this part in the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman told the House that at a conference which was the genesis of this clause a resolution was unanimously passed in favour of asking the Government to set up a central council for the control and direction of education in Wales, and he pointed out that the Leader of the Opposition was entirely ignoring the fact that this resolution came with the *imprimatur* of both parties in Wales, and was the accepted rendering of their wishes in regard to education. Since that happened they had had another version of what the clause really meant. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman was present at the conference, and that he then spoke in quite different terms of the clause. He then stated that such an authority ought to deal with matters of a purely educational character, and that all the great controversies, as between parties and sects, ought to be settled in the first place by the Imperial Parliament. The hon. Member for Swansea, who also spoke at the conference, was still more definite; he said that the council would have nothing to do with the management of elementary schools. Did that stand? If it was really the fact that Part IV. of the Bill had nothing to do with the management of elementary schools, and if it was to touch none of those questions likely to raise strife or difference in Wales, it was conceivable that this part of the Bill might be allowed to pass without any great objection on that side of the House. He should like to know from the President of the Board of Education whether it was really the intention that elementary education should not come within the purview of this council. Could the House not be told at this stage whether they were dealing with a matter that would raise controversy, or with one that was as innocuous as the council described by the President of the Board of Trade. He thought that an impression was created in this House by the speech of the right hon. Gentleman totally different from that which had been made on the mind of many who had read the other side of the story. There might be a misconception—he was sure there was no misrepresentation—and he should like to know whether the Government were going to eliminate from Part IV. anything which might be called controversial.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he apprehended from the Speaker's ruling that it would not be in order to discuss the broad merits of this portion of the Bill, but the right hon. Gentleman who moved the Instruction, before the Speaker gave his ruling, went sufficiently into the merits to indicate to his mind, and, he thought, to the mind of the House, that his Motion was directly in hostility to this portion of the Bill, and the right hon. Member gave his reasons, and was proceeding to give them at greater length when the Speaker intervened. The reasons the right hon. Gentleman gave, before he was interrupted, for his hostility to this portion of the Bill were reasons which rather recommended it to the Nationalist Members. The fact that it came here through an unanimous representation of Wales surely could not be held to be an argument against this portion of the Bill, at any rate in the minds of those who were Home Rulers. He did not desire, if it were out of order, at this stage to go into the merits of the proposal. He accepted absolutely the description of its meaning which the President of the Board of Trade gave on the Second Reading. He accepted from him the statement that it was proposed in pursuance of an agreement come to by all parties and all religions, including Bishops of the Church of England and Bishops also of the Catholic Church; and that being so, he thought it would be extraordinary if those who represented Ireland in this matter were to withhold their support from including this in the Bill. He regarded the Instruction as a hostile movement towards this measure of Home Rule for Wales. The Nationalist Members recognised to the full the obligations of gratitude they were under for many years to the support of the Welsh Members; and for these reasons and on the broad ground of Home Rule they would certainly vote against this Instruction.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hampshire, Basingstoke) said that, apart from the convenience of debate, there was a strong practical ground for the separate treatment of Part IV. if their desire really was to arrive at a practical solution of the religious difficulty which the Bill was designed to meet. The President of the Board of Education, in opening the debate on the First Reading of the Bill, referred in two sentences to Part IV. of the Bill. The first sentence referred to the alleged, but he thought incorrectly alleged, unanimity in Wales itself. The second sentence was in these words—

> "If on investigation it is found that this country can hand over to Wales whatever her share may be of moneys allocated to education and leave her to distribute it in her own way, Whitehall will have no occasion to regret her departure."

It appeared to him that as an exposition of Part IV., and as a defence of its policy, the observations of the right hon. Gentleman were a little inadequate, and undoubtedly it indicated that there was at that date in his mind an uncertainty as to whether Part IV. would be found practicable or not. He thought they were entitled to ask whether in the time that had elapsed since the right hon. Gentleman made that speech the investigation to which he referred had been held. If so, who made it, and what was the result of it? If not yet made, when would the investigation be made, and by whom? If it was found, as the right hon. Gentleman plainly implied it might be found, that this country could not hand over to Wales her share, what was then to become of Part IV. of the Bill? Was not the plain meaning of what the right hon. Gentleman said that this was what would take place? The House was to be asked to pass Part IV. of the Bill as it stood, and then His Majesty in Council was to be clothed with authority to set up this strange new body if it should be found expedient to do so.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now discussing Part IV. The instruction which has been moved is that the Committee should have power to deal separately with that Part.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER said he would endeavour to avoid any second error. The Bill proposed to make certain experiments in England and Wales. In England it was proposed to invest the local authorities with delicate and important duties; and in Wales the same experiment was to be made, and concurrently with the change there it was proposed to alter profoundly the controlling authority. He suggested that it would be wiser to make the first experiment universal in England and Wales, and then if it was found to work well the second proposal in regard to the machinery and the controlling authority in Wales could be introduced at a later date.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that this Instruction was one greatly likely to lighten the labour of the House, which had a very serious task before it in passing those parts of the Bill which had been discussed at the First and Second Reading stages. This part of the Bill had never been discussed; it had never, except in a strictly legal narrow sense, been read a second time. It differed in its matter and object from the rest of the Bill. It did not even own the same paternity, for there was an impression during the debate on the Second Reading that whereas the Minister for Education was responsible for the main part of the Bill of which he was in charge, this part was due to the inventive ingenuity of the President of the Board of Trade. He thought that admission was got from right hon. Gentlemen opposite; but it was also elicited from a consideration of a speech made towards the end of the Second Reading debate which showed why that Minister took an earnest interest amounting to paternity in this clause. The only defence of the Minister for Education of this part of the Bill in the Second Reading debate was that if the Education Department could get rid of the President of the Board of Trade and Wales, they would be delighted if they could do so by means of this clause, and if Wales could get rid of the Board of Education Wales also would be delighted. It was the case of a mutual desire to separate—a mutual repulsion with which they all had a natural sympathy, knowing the two parties to the case—which showed how little this part of the Bill was in any true sense an integral part of a great measure dealing with education. It might be a good or a bad thing; but it was an important and an irrelevant thing. He would suggest to the Government that, dealing with suggestions both important and relevant, they should agree in their own interest to separate this part of the Bill from those parts which were relevant. Another reason was that, by the admission of Ministers themselves, this part of the Bill had never been considered by the Government; it had never been considered by the House of Commons. It was a mere sketch. He thought that it was manifest that that was so and he believed that he had proved it. It might be supposed that if this clause had been planned and threshed out in the ordinary manner of a Government Bill, it would have been something else than the almost unintelligible skeleton presented to the House of Commons. He would have supposed that the Government would have been prepared to say what was the particular flesh—the particular form of body with which they proposed to clothe this skeleton. The Government had told them little with regard to these proposals —they had not chosen the orthodox means of communication with the public. They had chosen the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, who did not belong to their Party but was a man of great position. [An Hon. Member: You made him Lord Mayor.] He did not know what the hon. Member meant by saying that he made him Lord Mayor. It was the right of their municipal institutions alone to say who should be Lord Mayor. But this gentleman was not, at any rate, a member of the Government, and yet he wrote a letter in which he said—

> "I am authorised to state that the fourth part of this Bill—the part now in question—will be amended in such and such a manner."

It would be improper for him to discuss what those alterations were likely to be at the present moment. They had not heard in the House what they were to be. The Opposition did not know any more than the Government; and they had had no authoritative statement except through the mouth of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff about the proposals the Government intended to make for administrative Home Rule in educational matters in Wales. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill did not in his speech add one iota to what he said on its First Reading. The right hon. Gentleman said the hon. Members for Wales last year wanted to get away from the Board of Education and that the Board of Education wanted them to go away; but that was no reason why they should bring in at the tail-end of the most controversial measure which had been introduced in Parliament—a measure which had been received with the greatest and most passionate opposition in all parts of the country, and which was calculated both on broad constitutional grounds and in relation to its details to prove a most controversial measure — a scheme which had never been dealt with or properly thought out either by the Government, or by the Government draughtsman, or perhaps even by the Secretary to the Board of Trade. That surely was not the way to carry a great legislative proposal. If a proposal for granting educational Home Rule administration in Wales had been brought forward some time ago it would have met with the most deep-seated opposition. Before the Committee stage of the Bill was concluded, the Government would see the desirability of not adding to a measure from which religious discussions and considerations could not be separated, another question which was not religious but political and constitutional, and of sufficient importance in itself to provide matter enough for a first-class Bill in any session. These seemed to him to be grounds—broad-based, sound Parliamentary reasons—why this instruction should be accepted. The Government had everything to gain and nothing to lose by adopting the course now suggested.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 102; Noes, 388. (Division List No 83.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lo n
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey

Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt.Hon.J. (Birm.
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., F'h'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesh'm
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'gh, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (O'f'd. Un.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancash.)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'set
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, John Williams (D'v'np't
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grin'std
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, William J.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, E. W.

Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustance
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merth'r T'dvil
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. N.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accr'gt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'str
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kend'l, Tipperary Mid.
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse`
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J. Wynf'd (Pembroke)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)

Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. SPEAKER ruled that the Instructions on the Paper in the names of the hon. Member for the Kingston Division of Surrey and the hon. Member for Ayrshire were out of order, and that that of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield was in order to the end of the third line, the remainder being out of order.†

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said his object in moving that part of his Instruction which was in order was to divide this Bill into two. Part I. dealt with religious instruction and religious difficulty alone. It did not deal with education, properly so called. In Part I. the right hon. Gentleman had attempted to deal entirely with the religious difficulty, but he did not think his attempt up to the present had been successful in satisfying any large section of the House. It did not satisfy many of the right hon. Gentleman's own followers; it did not satisfy those who represented Ireland and it did not satisfy those who represented Labour. Part II. did deal with education and in a very wide and comprehensive way. The right hon. Gentleman pointed out with respect to Part II. in his introductory speech that it widened and strengthened the Board's power to establish a more elastic system of co-ordination. Part II. gave the Board of Education very wide and extensive powers. It gave the Board power to make schemes in all cases, excluding the schools mentioned in Section 3 of the Public Schools Act, 1868. In all other cases, both in secondary and in elementary schools, the Board of Education took powers to make schemes. It was quite true that where the value of the endowment was more than £50 a year the scheme had to come to this House to be confirmed. But in all other cases the Board of Education had power to make schemes without there being any appeal. This Bill was a very lengthy one and very controversial. It was divided into five parts and contained forty clauses. It was full of difficulties, and the object of this instruction was to offer the right hon. Gentleman a golden bridge to get out of those difficulties. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to take Part II. first ["No!"] and give himself and his colleagues time to reconsider Part I. He was afraid that if the right hon. Gentleman would not do that, before Part II. was got rid of a very long time would elapse. His suggestion was that the Committee should take Part II. first and deal with that. Part II. was a Bill in itself. Was it not right, before they dealt with Part I., that those who had educational establishments should know what their rights were? One of the difficulties with which the right hon. Gentleman was confronted did not come from the Church of England alone. It came also from Nonconformist bodies who had educational endowments, and there was some doubt in their minds as to what power the Board of Education sought to have over those endowments. The language of the Bill was indefinite on that point, and the people interested in the schools were very anxious to know what their rights were going to be. Therefore he suggested that the Government should let those people know what their position was before they proceeded to deal with Part I. He had no wish to delay the House, and simply put his suggestion before the Government that as these two parts of the Bill were absolutely distinct they should be taken separately. The right hon. Gentleman might have had a mandate for Part I., although he doubted that, but he was certain there was no demand in the country for the Government to deal with the endowments of the schools in the way they proposed to deal with them in this Bill. He begged to move.

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† The Instructions referred to were as follows:—

MR. CAVE: That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to make provision for dividing parishes and consolidating any parts of parishes for the purpose of varying the incidence of the charge proposed to be created by Clause 30 of the Bill.

MR. COCHRANE: That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to make provision for giving effect to the wishes of parents (of children in actual attendance at provided schools), with regard to the religious education to be given to children attending such schools by giving to such parents direct representation on the management of such schools as their children attend.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to divide the Bill into two Bills, the one dealing with elementary education, and the other with endowments and other educational purposes, and that the second Bill be reported to the House before the other is proceeded with.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University), in seconding, said he would like to make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman on behalf of the Instruction of his hon. friend on the ground of practical convenience. Part II. proposed to deal with the endowments and to deal with them in a way which made the subject extremely contentious. He would not enter into the merits of Part II., but he would like to point out the very important matters in which changes were proposed and upon which lengthy discussion was almost inevitable. The Bill altered the law in the way of substituting new powers for those which the Board of Education had under existing Acts; it altered the time which exempted endowments from interference; it altered the terms which entitled endowments to special treatment; it abolished the *çyprés* doctrine, and so altered the principles upon which trusts and endowments were dealt with; it altered the definition of endowments and left it to the Board of Education and gave them liberty to say what an endowment was. Owing to the somewhat curious manner in which that clause was drafted an educational endowment was anything that the Board of Education chose to regard as educational. It was impossible to say that that was a provision that was not contentious or one that the Opposition could accept without a very lengthy discussion. He suggested to the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education that this particular portion of the Bill, Part II., involving as it did so many extremely technical questions, would be much better dealt with apart from the rest of the Bill which it encumbered and embarrassed to a degree which the right hon. Gentleman would hardly realise until he reached that portion in Committee. Although they could not press this Instruction like the last on the ground of great constitutional importance, he thought that they could press it on the ground of general convenience to the House.

Motion made, and Question proposed "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Education (England and Wales) Bill that they have power to divide the Bill into two Bills, the one dealing with elementary education, and the other with endowments and other educational purposes."—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

MR. BIRRELL said the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield had shown very great sympathy for this measure, and he hoped that he would continue to show that sympathy throughout the whole of the debate. But all were agreed that Part I. of the Bill was the part that would receive most discussion, and all must be anxious to get it out of the way as soon as possible. Whatever might be the difficulties in Part II., that part stood by itself and did not affect the consideration of Part I. The difficulties of Part II. belonged to Part II., and when they were raised they would be dealt with in due course. He appealed to the Committee to get to work on Part I. as soon as possible; when that had been dealt with he thought they would have no difficulty in forming its opinion on Part II.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) hoped that the Government would see their way to take Part I. as a separate Bill. It was conceded by the President of the Board of Education and the Government generally that Part I. was unquestionably the important part of the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman in his introductory speech scarcely alluded to any other part. Might he, therefore, impress upon the House the great importance of adequate discussion being given to that part? The express object of the Bill, the real object of the right hon. Member, was to arrive at some solution which would bring peace in the religious conflict. He could not see how Part I. would accomplish that object, but of one thing he was quite certain, namely, that there was not the least chance of bringing that home to anybody without fair and adequate discussion of Part I. The Bill was not quite clear upon that subject. If the President of the Board of Education looked at the Notice Paper he would see that there were thirty pages of Amendments with respect to Part I. alone. If the Government intended to get through that Part with proper and adequate discussion he could not help thinking that if Part II. were superadded the task before the House would be so heavy that great pressure would be put upon the Government to devise some means for unduly curtailing the discussion on that part of the Bill.

Mr. BIRRELL dissented.

Lord R. CECIL said he was glad the right hon. Gentleman dissented, but they were now only at the beginning of the Committee stage, and sometimes right hon. and hon. Gentlemen changed their views during Committee. He could not help feeling that one portion of Part I. was absolutely destructive of the whole intention of the Government, and he thought that some of the Members of the Government were quite at sea as to the meaning and magnitude of Part II. The magnitude of the proposals in Part II. was enormous. Unless he wholly misconstrued the definition of education endowments, it appeared to him that it would be possible to consider under Part II. every kind of endowment, and, when they took it in conjunction with Part IV., it meant that the Council for Wales would have the power of dealing with any kind of endowments, however purely religious or denominational such endowments were, or of making any provision they liked. It was quite evident that there was abundant matter both in Part II. and in Part IV. for very elaborate discussion, and there were other clauses, such as Clause 16, which must necessarily take a very long time. He could not see how the Government proposed to get through all those clauses if they were to allow full and free discussion of Part I., and he ventured to think that if they could really dispose of the religious difficulty and set at rest the fears of denominationalists and undenominationalists, they would facilitate the progress of the Bill. He did hope the Government would devote their whole energies to disposing of this question, and leave the other questions raised by the Bill, many of which were difficult, to be disposed of on a future occasion.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that since Mr. Speaker had ruled out of order the last part of this Instruction, it had become rather absurd. The only real point in the Instruction was the portion which had been ruled out of order. But supposing the Instruction were passed, its only effect would be to enable the Committee to divide the Bill into two Bills and to report them both during the present session. But it was competent for the Committee without any Instruction at all so to divide the Bill by simply dropping Part II. if they found that the discussion on Part I. had occupied too much of the session. All they had to do was to omit the clauses forming Part II. and take them up as a new Bill next year. That in his opinion was a thing which was not at all likely to happen; therefore, he could not vote in favour of this Instruction. Another reason was that, although Part II. would be exceedingly objectionable to the Catholic Party, the Government had distinctly and repeatedly said that it was not their intention to do what in the Catholic meetings throughout the country they had been charged with doing in the Bill, and that they were prepared to receive with a perfectly open mind Amendments to Part II. And if he properly understood the intention of the Government it might be perfectly possible to come to an understanding satisfactory to those for whom the Nationalist Party spoke. There was another reason why he would be sorry to declare war on Part II. He thought they knew what were the real intentions of the Government in regard to that portion of the Bill. On the other hand he was somewhat in a difficulty, because undoubtedly, though it was not the true meaning of a vote against that Instruction, it would bear the appearance to the outside public that the Nationalist Members were in favour of Part II. as it now stood, which they were not. And while at this stage he was not disposed to offer to the Bill irreconcilable or unreasonable opposition until they knew how far the Government would carry out the promises and indications given on the Second Reading, he certainly was not prepared to give any vote which could be interpreted as approval of Part II. Therefore he proposed to abstain from voting at all, and he thought that in that matter he expressed the opinion of his friends of the Nationalist Party.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) said Part II. of this Bill was perhaps the most revolutionary proposal that had been put forward for many years. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had curtly dismissed it as a few simple clauses to get over a difficulty, but he had never defined what those clauses proposed to do. The right hon. Gentleman might be aware, but he ventured to say that many Members of this House and the general public certainly were not aware, that Part II. not only referred to elementary and secondary schools, but to such institutions as theological colleges. Under this Bill such institutions could be immediately taken away from the trustees, although they were entirely for teaching of a denominational nature. The Bill also gave the power to take away the trust deeds of those institutions and to deal with any privilege which the denomination might have over educational purposes. It applied also to Church training schools where the teachers for various elementary schools were trained. Whether or not that was intended he did not know, but he understood from the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education that he did not mean to touch those schools. But there was not the slightest doubt that the draftsmen of the Bill did intend it and had carried out the intention, of course acting under the instructions of the President of the Board of Education. It would also apply to all such schools as convent schools in England which were clearly schools of a denominational character. After the most flattering remarks of the President of the Board of Education and the President of the Board of Trade as to the Roman Catholic religion, it was a wonder the right hon. Gentleman should have included in Part II. a right to confiscate practically every convent school in the country. Further than that, it applied to such schools as choir schools annexed to to such places as cathedral towns. Not a word was said about this on the Second Reading. There were also institutions founded by Nonconformist bodies on strictly denominational lines, such as the Leys School at Cambridge. They had to render accounts every year. That might be an excellent innovation, although he differed from those who held that opinion. There were lots of people in this country —he did not agree with them—who thought it would be an excellent thing that all convent schools should be shut up to-morrow. But the subject required discussion in this House. The Leys School and the other schools he had mentioned would have to render accounts to the Board of Education each year under this Act. All the theological colleges would have to do the same. It would affect other institutions probably not so familiar to hon. Members. There were various schools, such as high schools for girls, which had been worked under different denominations, notably the Church of England. Part II. of the Bill affected all of them. There was one other point which he wished to press very fully, because he was certain the right hon. Gentleman had not realised it. It was understood by everyone who heard or read the right hon. Gentleman's speech that, when a school belonging to trustees was taken, rent was to be paid for it. How would that work out in practice if Part II. of the Bill were allowed to remain? Let them take a small village where there was a school vested in trustees, the trust having existed for more than thirty years, and there was a small separate endowment of about £50 a year. The innocent elector thought that some part of the £50 a year was going for Church purposes. Not at all. Part II. would come along. The President of the Board of Education would send down, without the consent of the trustees, and against their wishes and those of the managers, a man from the Board of Education who was bound to follow the instructions under the Bill. What would be the fate of the £50 a year in the little village? It was bound to be put down for educational purposes. What other educational purpose was there in that village once the question of Church and creed was eliminated? [An Hon. Member: Scholarships.] He agreed. What more excellent educational purpose could they have than the board school of the villages, and so the £50 they were giving with one hand, they were taking back the next moment with the other. The President of the Board of Education had told them that the money would be devoted to the payments which would be incurred by the necessary renting of the schools, but they knew now that it was nothing of the kind.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I fail to see the bearing of the hon. Member's argument. The Instruction is that the Bill should be divided into two parts. They may both be either good or bad, but the only question is whether they should be divided.

Mr. RAWLINSON said the effect of Part II. was that it absolutely ousted the jurisdiction of the High Court in connection with such trusts. [Cries of "Order, order!" from the Ministerial Benches.] Not only this, but it utterly altered the law of trust deeds. [Renewed cries of "Order!"] The very cries from the Ministerial Benches were the strongest argument in favour of the course suggested by his right hon. friend the Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield. This was an important proposition which deserved full and calm discussion. The President of the Board of Education had told them the story of his walk in Battersea Park. On the Saturday previous to the First Reading of this Bill the right hon. Gentleman perused some documents to be ready to open his case in this House on the Monday, and apparently he had not time to read his brief further than Part I. and consequently they did not hear anything about Part II. In other walks of life, such as the law courts, it was frequently desirable to give a learned counsel time to read the whole of his brief, and no harm would be done by taking Part II. as a separate Bill, because it raised questions of great importance and proposed sweeping changes.

*Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said the President of the Board of Education had expressed a desire to get to work, but the reason why they could not get to work was that the right hon. Gentleman had attached to a Bill dealing with elementary education two great public questions which on all grounds ought to be treated apart from an Elementary Education Bill. Although the proposed sweeping treatment of endowments might not, like the Welsh Council, involve a great constitutional principle, it certainly was the initiation of a new theory and practice which would be of far-reaching importance to the country, and was of sufficient importance to require separate treatment at the hands of the House. The principle at stake was whether it was right or expedient for the House, on the plea of facilitating some legislation with regard to a particular subject, to pass a Bill which enabled them to alter the law wantonly and violently in regard to endowments, and trusts, and money, and property which had been handed over upon conditions which were perfectly legal. That was a new legislative departure for this House, and it would have very serious effects upon the whole practice of testamentary benefactions from which many of the less fortunate class in this country had reaped such great benefit. They were proposing to take into their own hands the power to divert endowments and trusts from their original and legitimate purpose which in many cases had been confirmed by schemes on which the ink was hardly dry, and granted by the authorised department of the Government. They would in this way be telling people that it was no use for them to single out objects for the public good to which to leave their money.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is giving very good reasons against Part II., but that is not the question. The question is whether it should remain part of this Bill or be dealt with as a separate Bill.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said he was endeavouring to show that Part II. of the Bill introduced a new treatment of the principle of endowments which went far beyond the scope of any question of education, and that this constituted a strong reason why that Part deserved to be treated in a separate Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he should not have intervened had it not been that he thought some observations made by the hon. Member for East Mayo might possibly greatly mislead both hon. Members from Ireland and the House generally as to what was likely to occur if this Instruction were rejected. The hon. Member appeared to suppose that if the Government found Part II.—which carried with it an absolutely revolutionary proposal in connection with the whole trust system of the country—too heavy a load for them to carry, they could omit it from the Bill and go on with other parts of the measure which were more relevant. The hon. Member for East Mayo was mistaken, because nothing that the Committee could do if the House rejected this Instruction would put them in the position which the Instruction would put them into. The Instruction would practically divide the Bill, and enable the House to deal separately with the question of elementary education.

MR. DILLON: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to say that it would not be competent for the Committee to omit Part II. if they chose to do so?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Member for East Mayo had led some hon. Members to believe that, if the House rejected this Instruction they could, as it were, retrieve their steps at a later stage of the Bill, and then do what they now deliberately refused to do. That was not so in two very important, but different, respects. In the first place, if this Instruction was carried, and only if carried, they would be able to get two Bills—one containing the provisions in regard to elementary education and Welsh administrative Home Rule, and the other containing the revolution in the principle of trusts. The two Bills would be there to their hands, and they could be proceeded with as time allowed. But even if it were possible to defer their proceedings to the middle of the Bill, there would be the right of discussion at some later stage. If they did not agree to this Instruction now, they would only be able to omit Part II. clause by clause, and having done that the Government would have to bring in a new Bill.

MR. DILLON said the right hon. Gentleman was not correctly representing what he said as to the effect of not accepting this Instruction. What he said was that the Committee without the Instruction would have power to drop Part II.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Gentleman was wrong even in that statement, as he would show if allowed to go on with his speech in his own way. The hon. Gentleman seemed to think that they could defer a decision on this point until a later stage of the Bill, and quite unintentionally he misled some hon. Members when he said that they could drop Part II.

MR. DILLON: You can drop it clause by clause.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that at the end of each clause a Motion to omit the clause could be put down. A Motion of that kind would have to be put down separately for each clause, and all the amendments relating to each clause must be disposed of before the Motion to omit it could be made. A Motion to omit a clause could not be made at the beginning of the clause. He did not say that that was a good system. It was a system which he tried to alter when he made proposals to the House on procedure, but the House did not like the alteration. It was impossible for the Government under the Standing Orders to omit a clause in the Committee stage of a Bill until the whole of that clause had been discussed line by line and amendment by amendment. The hon. Member for East Mayo would see from what he had said that it would be perfectly impossible for the Government, if they rejected this Instruction, to come down to the House and carry out in any shape or form the lightening of the Bill in the way urged now. He was quite sure the advice offered to the Government was good. They were initiating in Part II., as any lawyer, of whom there were plenty on their own side, would tell them, an immense revolution in the whole law of trusts which touched every class of the community — Nonconformists, Roman Catholics, and Anglicans alike. Every class of the community, rich or poor, was interested in this law of trusts, and why on earth the Government, having insisted already this afternoon in initiating one great revolution, should now insist on initiating another in the middle of a Bill which was certainly revolutionary enough, and was going to lead to heart burning and bitterness throughout the country, he did not know. Now, and now only, was the time for the Government to diminish the burden they were carrying and to lessen the difficulties they had to surmount, and he urged them not to neglect the warning which he for the second time this afternoon ventured to give them.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE (Birmingham, Edgbaston) said that whether they agreed or disagreed on the question of having one or two Bills the point which they had to consider now was whether Part II. was germane to Part I. He ventured to say that the one had nothing whatever to do with the other, and that the one was not necessary in any shape or form to the other. The first Part dealt wholly with elementary schools, and the second Part gave the Board of Education power to deal with schemes and charitable endowments, and said that the courts of law should in future cease to have power to make any such schemes. There were only a few public schools such as Eton and Harrow which were exempted from this portion of the Bill. The question whether such schools as Rugby, Wellington, Marlborough, Shrewsbury, and Uppingham should be deprived of their endowments was a separate question from whether something should be done to deal with religion in public elementary schools. He thought the Motion was a perfectly fair and reasonable one.

The House divided: — Ayes, 107; Noes, 353. (Division List, No. 84.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHn. A. J. (CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Ed. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H.B.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F (BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, SirHenrySeymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, ArthurH. (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage

Liddell, Henry
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
M'Calmont, ColonelJames
M'Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt.Hn.JG(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley(York, E. R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B.Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(S'D'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, JohnWilliams(Dev'np'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex,Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordsihre
Bolton, T. D.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt. Hn. James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt.Hn. SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn RichardKnight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir.T. Glen (Renfrew,W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J(S.PancrasW,
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(Montgomery Co.
Davies,M.Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in- Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Haridie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davis, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred

Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lubton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph. (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxeth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De. R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walter, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. H.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Instruction in the name of the hon. Member for the Holderness Division, and the subject matter of all the other instructions on the Paper †, may be raised either as Amendments to existing clauses in the Bill or by new clauses, and they are therefore out of order.

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause :—

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford), in moving to postpone Clause I., said that he could not be accused bringing forward the Amendment in an obstructive sense, for an Amendment to a similar effect was moved by the hon. Member for Northampton, E., when the Education Bill of 1902 was before the House. If it was desirable to raise a discussion on the point then, it was tenfold more so on this occasion, when the wording of the first clauses of the two Bills was compared. He wanted to put shortly before the Government the reasons why they would do wisely in postponing this clause. What did the Government inform them on the Second Reading of the Bill ? They said they had to fulfil certain mandates : one referred to local control, and the second, which had a new and vague description, was the abolition of tests for teachers. If those were the objects with which the Government had brought forward their Bill, he would point out that this clause did not deal with either, because so far as local control was concerned, it was limited in its wording. These were council schools ; they were virtually under local control, and if the words passed as they stood, the Bill did not deal in any sense with the question of complete public control. Neither did it deal with the question which had reference to the tests for teachers, because in these council schools there were not, even in the opinion of hon. Gentlemen opposite, any real tests for teachers. Therefore, so far as their mandate was concerned, the Government were not, under this clause, dealing with either of these great questions, and if they desired the conciliation of which they spoke there was a very grave and serious reason why they should consent to do justice by postponing this clause. In a few words the clause provided, when it had been passed, that every public elementary school should be a provided school. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] Hon. Members cheered that statement, and they therefore desired in a one-sided manner, by departing from the concordat which had existed in this country for thirty-six years, to destroy by three lines in a Bill 16,000 schools which were educating half the children of this country. Nobody could deny that this clause did that. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] Hon. Members said "no," but how could a voluntary school at this moment be a "provided" school? He saw that hon. Members were silent now. Practically he thought they could sum up this clause in no other phrase than in a very well-known rallying cry belonging to another religion which ran—

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† The Instructions referred to were as follows :—

MR. STANLEY WILSON : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert provisions for altering boundaries of parishes for the purpose of varying the incidents of the charge proposed to be created by Clause 30 of the Bill.

LORD R. CECIL : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert provisions for establishing a central education authority in London to be called the Council for London.

MR. BRIDGEMAN : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert provisions for establishing a central education authority for the county of London, to be called the Education Council for London.

MR. RADFORD : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to make provision for the establishment of an education authority for London directly elected for the purpose of education only.

MR. EVERETT : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to make provision in the Bill for the constitution of local education authorities elected for educational purposes only for areas of suitable size, with provision for the combined action of such authorities where thought expedient in county or other large areas.

MR. CHANNING : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to make provision for the establishment of authorities directly elected for the purposes of education only in areas of suitable size throughout the country.

MR. BECKETT : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert provisions for establishing central education authorities for the counties of York and Lancaster consisting of members to be appointed by the councils, county boroughs, and other municipal authorities of the said counties.

MR. PICKERSGILL : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to make provision for the creation of a directly elected body to constitute the local education authority for London, and having only educational duties to perform.

LORD BALCARRES : That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert provisions that in the event of excess of authority on the part of the council proposed to be created under Clause 37 of the Bill the powers thereby to be conferred shall, *ipso facto*, cease and determine, and revert to the Board of Education.

> "There is but one Allah and Mahomet is his prophet."

He thought that they might say that the Government asserted by this clause that "There is but one school and Cowper-Temple is his prophet." There was good reason for postponing this clause, because the Government had to make further arrangements, and having destroyed the whole of the schools in the country which were worked under voluntary principles they might, by a subsequent clause "deem" them to be provided schools, and use words to that effect. Supposing one desired to be conciliatory, one did not on meeting a man in the street knock him down first and then say "Now I am willing to come to terms with you, but you must remember that if you do get up, I have another chance of knocking you down again under a scheme for a Commission, and it will be the worse for you if you refuse this Bill." Another reason for accepting the Amendment was one of expediency. The proposal to postpone the clause was an alternative to a proposal to omit it. He should be sorry under present circumstances to see it omitted because he desired that they should have one form of school for secular education in this country. He voted for the 1902 Bill believing that he was voting for one co-ordinated form of secular instruction. If that Act required strengthening he was willing to go forward and strengthen it provided it could be done with justice. Surely, therefore, it was better for them to deal with clauses standing between 1 and 13 which would enable them to find means of transferring the voluntary schools to the local authority with full justice and fairness before passing this clause. Then if they were satisfied and Members representing other denominations were satisfied, instead of being the subject of amendment Clause 1 might be accepted without any discussion at all. So long as this was put in the forefront of the Bill they were, however, bound to oppose it. Another argument was the financial one, which he thought showed that the clause should be postponed. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were extremely anxious for economy, and if they could only hit upon some just means of transferring these schools it was very possible that the £1,000,000 a year or the £20,000,000 proposed to be spent under this Bill might be saved. Hon. Members opposite seemed to think that the desire for money was the only consideration which affected them. He believed that none of the denominations interested were desirous of money. They desired to secure the advantages they had at present, which they believed vital to their own schools, and to carry through the main object for which the schools were established, the religious education of their children. Another reason for the postponement was the maze in which they found themselves from the speeches delivered from the front Ministerial bench. They did not know whether the schools were to be handed over in the spirit of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Duchy, or in the spirit of the speech of the President of the Board of Trade. They had not yet been favoured with any opinion from the Prime Minister, and they had before them no presentation of a satisfactory basis for a great settlement. He therefore thought that on the ground of the different tenor of the speeches dealing with the most vital subjects they ought not to commit themselves without due consideration of the terms to the suppression of these schools, which, after all, had been built and carried on under the guarantee of the State for a great number of years. It was most unfair that they who might be called the elder brother in education should have their interests entirely disregarded and forgotten as they were in the first clause of the Bill. They had been taunted that they did not care for Bible teaching, but there was one passage of that Book of which he was reminded. They were told that the schools of 1870 were not to supplant but to supplement the voluntary schools, but this clause was finally going to supplant and not to supplement them, and they might well recollect the pathetic words which they read in the Bible of the elder brother—

> "Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times; he took away my birthright, and behold now he hath taken away my blessing."

They might have to part with their birthright in these schools under the intolerable strain of poverty and hunger but they were determined that if they did they would not part with the blessing, viz., the blessing of definite religious instruction of the children in the tenets of their parents' faith by teachers who believed in that teaching.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 be postponed."—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (SIR W. ROBSON, South Shields) said he would not follow the hon. Member into the merits of the clause, and he was afraid if he did so he should not be successful in keeping within the strict limits of order because this Amendment raised no question as to the merits of that clause but only referred to the place it should occupy in the measure. It was said that they should discuss the clause at the end of the Bill, but undoubtedly it embodied the fundamental principle of the measure, and he could not understand if it were postponed what sort of discussion they were likely to have upon Clauses 2, 3, and 4. Those clauses were consequential to Clause 1, and it was therefore essential that they should take the principle of the primary clause in its proper place. The hon. Member dashed to the ground the hope he at first raised that they might get the clause without debate by denouncing it in unmeasured terms.

> "There is but one school and Cowper-Temple is his prophet"—

that was not exactly holding out a hope that by postponing this clause they would find themselves in such a position that there would be no difficulty in agreeing to it. The hon. Member had not mentioned what the Amendments were in the second clause which would satisfy him and his friends, upon which they would accept Clause 1, which contained the principle of the Bill which they denounced on its second reading. He was afraid from the statement of the hon. Member they must accept his promise as an illusory one and relegate it to its proper place. The Government could not accept the Motion.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said that this was not a dilatory Motion, neither was it one that would kill or mutilate the Bill. The first clause embodied the fundamental proposition of the measure, and this meant that it fulfilled the pledges given by many hon. Members opposite during the election. Undoubtedly the clause would place the appointment of the head teacher of a non-provided school in the hands of the local authority instead of, as now, giving the local authority the right to consent to the appointment or not. But the clause also said that what was known as the Cowper-Temple clause of the Act of 1870 should from a certain date govern all religious instruction in every school in the country. The Opposition regarded that as an act of injustice, and it seemed to them, rightly or wrongly, that it ought not to be placed in the forefront of the Bill, because if hon. Members insisted upon giving it that place, and stating that it was the fundamental proposition of the Bill, with what confidence could they ask the Opposition to look forward to the discussion of exemptions and exceptions from the clause? If this clause were passed it would kill all denominational instruction throughout the country. ["No, no."] There ought to be in the clause some announcement that the Government were prepared to meet the Opposition claim that the State should act impartially as between the different kinds of religious instruction for which individual sections of the community had a preference. But the clause contained nothing of the kind, and the Bill in effect was a measure enabling the local education authority to take over on terms the present non-provided schools. Then why not begin with Clause 2, which said that the local authority, if it so desired, might enter into an arrangement for renting schools? Surely that was the logical starting point for a Bill which contemplated arrangements of this character. Instead of adopting that course, however, the Government had drawn up their Bill in the most provoking manner that could have been selected, thereby destroying any hope raised by the assurances, often repeated, that the Government wished to meet the just claims of those who urged provision for denominational education. Once the first clause was enacted the

Government created a presumption for all time that this was the proper kind of religious instruction to be given in all places, and nothing they might do afterwards would defeat the presumption so created. They said, therefore, that it was not just to create a presumption in favour of a system which at its best, the high-water mark of the Hampshire syllabus, did not satisfy a great number of their fellow-countrymen, and which at its worst did not coincide with their religious convictions

MR. DILLON said that Clause 1 undoubtedly contained the fundamental principle of the educational proposals. It was intended to set up in this country a uniform system of State schools under popular control, and not only to do that, but to set up in those schools the endowment of one particular form of religious teaching. He recognised that as the principle of the Bill, and while so far as he was concerned he thought that ideal a false one—false from a purely educational point of view as well as from the point of view of religious justice—still, under certain circumstances, he and those who worked with him on this question would be prepared to accept that system, not because they thought it was fair but because they were a minority in the country. He was amused to hear the hon. Member who moved the Amendment say that he should be sorry to omit Clause 1 because he desired to see one form of school for the whole country.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY: For secular education.

MR. DILLON remarked that surely all schools must be for secular education. He did not suppose that the hon. Member would banish secular education altogether. He believed that the ideal that was set up as a fetish of one cast-iron system of school in the country was a false ideal and that in the end they would find that out. The history of humanity had taught that all improvement in education and in everything else came not from Governments but from individuality. The Irish people had enough to complain of in the way of education, but there was one bright spot in the education of Ireland which challenged comparison with the primary education of any other country in the world, even Germany; it was the system which governments had not touched or interfered with. The Christian Brothers conducted a system of primary education by private effort as good as any which existed. Why had their system been so marvellously successful? It was because it was original. It was devised by the Brothers themselves, and they had always refused to have it cramped, cabined, or confined by the Government. Therefore he said that so far as he himself was concerned, and he was glad to have that opportunity of saying so, from a purely educational point of view they would not be pursuing the true ideal if they set up a bed of Procrustes and attempted to stretch every system of primary instruction in the country upon it. His ideal was to encourage diversity, and he did not believe in uniformity. But he thought that there ought to be in every country a State system, though every effort should be made to encourage variety and individual effort.

THE CHAIRMAN: Order! order! I think the hon. Member is getting rather wide of the Question before the Committee.

MR. DILLON admitted that he had done so. He would go on to show why he thought the clause ought to be postponed. He had already stated that he could not share the view of the hon. Member who moved the Motion. As the clause was good in itself they were prepared to accept it if the other causes were so found and amended as to enable them to obtain justice and save their schools. But how were they able to determine what their attitude was to be towards Clause 1 or as to the various amendments on Clause 1, when they did not know what facilities were to be given in Clause 4 and the other clauses? He did not think that it was quite so absurd as the Solicitor-General on behalf of the Government seemed to think, that this Clause 1 should be postponed until Clauses 2, 3, and 4 and other clauses were decided upon, for by such postponement the length and bitterness of the discussion on the Amendments to Clause 1 might be enormously decreased. He did not know what the feeling of the Opposition might be on this matter, but his own feeling, and the feeling of his colleagues, was that they trusted that the course of the debates on other clauses of the Bill would take such a shape as would enable them heartily to accept Clause 1. But when they were in a state of uncertainty as to what the future course of these clauses was to be, it put things in a very different light, and it might necessitate their taking part in a discussion on this particular point. He did not wish to be misunderstood; he was not now pressing the Government to disclose their intentions with regard to Clauses 3 and 4. He did not think it would be reasonable to ask, or politic on the part of the Government to disclose them, and he did not see that the attitude of the Government on Part I. could be altered by a forecast as to what they proposed to do on Clauses 3 and 4. The only way to meet the difficulty was by allowing discussions on Clauses 2, 3, and 4 to come on, and then they could make up their minds as to their attitude on Clause 1.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE said that on much the same ground as the hon. Member for East Mayo he pressed very hard the postponement of this clause, which proposed that no elementary school should be regarded as such unless provided by the local authority. That was to say, that unless it became a provided school, it should cease to have any assistance from the rates and taxes. It might be possible that some of them would consent to such a course being adopted if they knew the terms and conditions on which they were asked to concur in the arrangement, but to ask them to consent to the 16,000 voluntary schools being handed over to the local education authority without knowing on what terms they were to be handed over, was very much like asking anyone to sell his property without knowing what the purchase money or the other items were to be. He thought, however, it was quite possible that equitable terms might be arranged by which these voluntary schools should be handed over to the local education authority, and so far as he was concerned he was most anxious to assist in bringing about such an agreement as would settle this difficulty once and for all. But first of all they wanted to know what facilities were to be afforded for denominational teaching. Clause 3 said that facilities were to be given on not more than two mornings of the week, it did not say that they were even to be given on two mornings, and they need not be given on more than one morning. It did not say whether they were to be given in or out of school hours. [Cries of "Question."] They wanted to know whether these facilities were to be real or illusory.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must confine himself to the Amendment.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE said he was only trying to show that if fair and equitable terms were accorded they might agree to Clause 1, but it was impossible to agree to it until they knew what the terms were to be. It was only reasonable that they should ask for the clause to be postponed until the Government had more clearly made known exactly what facilities they proposed to give for denominational teaching, and for that reason he strongly supported the Amendment.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) supported the proposal to postpone the clause. If the right hon. Gentleman in framing the measure had avoided throwing this tremendous bone of contention at their heads in the very forefront of the measure, it was likely the Bill would have been received with more consideration by the Opposition and the country at large. When the right hon. Gentleman introduced the measure he referred to himself as a singularly untrained man. Hon. Members might have their own opinion as to the sort of training that the right hon. Gentleman had had, or as to his capacity, but at anyrate they greatly appreciated the great ability and skill with which he introduced the measure. If he had illustrated in the arrangement of the measure the same skill and ability, they would not have found the first clause where it now was. It had caused the friends of education, and more particularly that portion who were deeply interested in the welfare of the voluntary schools, to meet the whole Bill with a *non possumus.* The mere fact that this clause did away with any diversity or variety in the schools would in itself condemn the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman, in introducing the measure, referred to the glorious work of the School Boards. That work was greatly appreciated.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman must confine himself to the question of postponing this clause.

MR. CARLILE said he merely wished to show that the clause was placed in a wrong place. Unless the clause were put later in the Bill, those who had as they thought the highest interests of education at heart could not do otherwise than contest the clause word by word and line by line.

MR. BIRRELL said that it was generally a good rule to begin at the beginning. This clause meant rather more than the right hon. Member for Dover attributed to it, because it meant the establishment of the principle that all schools which received public money should be placed under public control. If the Bill became law, whatever might be the facilities given under Clauses 3 and 4—and he hoped that they would be found by no means illusory—they would still be given in schools under the control of the local education authority. Therefore, Clause 1 was a real good clause standing by itself. The Government would have departed from fair dealing and common sense if they had not put the bone of contention in the forefront. This first clause was the spinal cord of the Bill, and he did not see where else they could have put it. It was therefore impossible for him to accept the Motion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that this was much more than a mere drafting question. From the point of view of drafting he entirely agreed that Clause 1 ought to come first; but it did not follow that it ought to be considered first. There were strong reasons why it should be postponed until the Government plan in regard to Clauses 3 and 4 was known. It would be much more convenient if this clause were postponed so that the Government might state what their policy was in regard to Clauses 3 and 4. The hon. Member for East Mayo had said that he saw no way of gaining that object without actually postponing the clause. The most strenuous and anxious admirers of Clause 1 must admit that it had produced a very painful feeling amongst all those who were interested in voluntary schools. The most ardent Nonconformist would have sufficient power of sympathy to understand that it could not be an agreeable process for those who had spent vast sums upon establishing schools for denominational purposes to have those schools turned into provided schools. Was it not fair to the class they wished to oppress [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh"]—the class they wished to deprive of their schools—that before assenting to this summary justice or injustice they should know what were the mitigating and alleviating circumstances the Government meant to bring forward? Had the Government themselves made up their minds? The Minister for Education, in his opening speech, quoted from a different draft of the Bill to that which they had now before them and made two material and most important variations from the text of the Bill presented to the House. Which was to stand? Did the conversations to deputations contain the kernel of the new policy? The Committee ought to approach the consideration of Clause 1 with some knowledge of what were the mitigating circumstances in relation to the great injury proposed to be done to the whole system of religious education. They ought not to have to consider Clause 1 blindfolded if the Government could give them any light upon the most important portion of their own Bill.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) did not think the Minister for Education would act the part of the fly to the spider of the Leader of the Opposition. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down of what he said when a Motion was proposed to postpone Clause 1 of the right hon. Gentleman's Bill of 1902. At that time the right hon. Gentleman declared it was good drafting to place the principle upon which the Bill depended in the early part of the measure, and that what hon. Members had called "the backbone of the Bill" should be in front. [AN HON. MEMBER: But this Bill is robbery.) He did not think hon. Members on the Opposition side would advance the cause by cries of "robbery." If the right hon. Gentleman was of the same opinion as he was in 1902 he ought to vote against this Motion.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): Might I ask the hon. Member how he himself voted on that occasion?

*Sir FRANCIS LOWE: Will the hon. Member read an extract from his own speech upon that occasion?

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS: I do not think I spoke upon that occasion.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan), in supporting the Motion, claimed that all the parties who were about to be injured by this measure—the parents whose rights would be interfered with, the teachers whose liberty would be fettered, and the founders of great schools whose property would be, he would not say confiscated, but alienated—all these were entitled to further information as to the intentions of the Government.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Baronet must confine his remarks to the Motion before the House, which is that this clause should be postponed.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL said he was endeavouring to give reasons why the Bill should be postponed. It seemed to him that the children of the parents whose rights were interfered with by the Bill and the founders of these great schools were entitled to some consideration.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said there was a wide difference between the first clause of this Bill and the first clause of the Act of 1902. The latter was merely a transfer of this control of secular instruction from one sort of local authority to another. This clause involved not merely a transfer of property, but an invasion of rights of conscience. He thought, therefore, the Committee were justified in looking closely into the terms of the first clause and asking for some assurance from the Government which would enable them to proceed with the consideration of the Bill in a more satisfactory frame of mind than was possible at present. It was proposed to transfer all voluntary schools and convert them into provided schools. He thought the Opposition were entitled to ask what was meant by a provided school. He hoped the President of the Board of Education would enlighten them on that point.

The CHAIRMAN said the hon. Baronet was asking questions with regard to the clause, whereas he was supposed to be arguing in favour of postponing the clause.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he would not put his argument in the form of questions; instead of asking a question he would state a difficulty. They knew what was meant by a provided school now. It was a school entirely belonging to the local authority, wherever it was. Then Clause 2 stated that voluntary schools with which arrangements would be made under the Bill would be deemed provided schools. But besides these there was a large number of schools with regard to which it was contemplated that no arrangement would be made, but with regard to which schemes would be made. Were they to be provided schools?

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) asked the Chairman whether the hon. Baronet was in order.

The CHAIRMAN repeated that the hon. Baronet was not entitled to put a series of questions.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON expressed regret that he should have departed from his undertaking not to use an interrogative form. The Committee, however, were entitled to know what was to be the position of a school which was transferred under a scheme, and in what sense the term "provided" applied to a voluntary school in respect of which a scheme was made. The country was threatened with a uniformity of education which he deprecated. The Government said there was a possibility of escaping that uniformity. The Government assured the Committee that things were in the Bill which he confessed he could not find. They had been told that Clause 4 would be a reality. He saw no reality in that clause. The Opposition wanted to know whether the facilities which were suggested were going to be realities or not. They were entitled to information on such matters, and for that reason they were compelled to ask for the postponement of the clause. They ought to be informed as to the reality of the concession which the Government had promised before they were asked to dispose of the very drastic provision which turned the voluntary schools into council schools.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said he was very much struck by one sentence which fell from the President of the Board of Education. It was that when they came to discuss Clauses 3 and 4 he was quite disposed to think that the Government might accept Amendments. He thought that was the first time there had been an indication that the Government would be disposed to accept Amendments on these clauses. It was a very important statement, and he was exceedingly glad to hear it, but it made the matter all the worse if they were not allowed now to postpone the consideration of Clause 1. In what direction were Clauses 3 and 4 to be Amended? It would make the whole difference. The Committee should be allowed to postpone Clause 1 until they knew what the Amendments on Clauses 3 and 4 were to be. They wanted also to know exactly how these schools were going to be provided by the local authority. They had heard nothing about what syllabuses were going to be imposed, and they should have some information on that subject. Nor had they heard anything about how the local authorities were going to make use of the £1,000,000 which had been promised. That was a matter of material importance when they were considering whether this clause should be postponed.

MR. RAWLINSON appealed to the Government to reconsider their position on this point. Their conduct might be misunderstood in the country. It would be said in the country, if the Motion for the postponement of this clause was rejected, it was because, if the clause was pressed to a division now, hon. Members would vote under a misapprehension of what they were voting for. Hon. Members from Ireland who spoke on behalf of the Roman Catholic community had stated over and over again that they would not be content with Clause 4 as it stood, and that they would demand further concessions. It had been said by Nonconformist Member after Nonconformist Member that they would not vote for this Bill if Clause 4 remained part of it. Did the Government take that seriously or did they not? Nonconformist Members had stated that they objected strongly, if he might say so, to the preference which was to be given to the Roman Catholic religion. He ventured to say that every Nonconformist Member knew that the Nonconformist constituencies were strongly opposed to any preference being given to Roman Catholics. He was not discussing the desirability or otherwise of this clause. No harm could be done by postponing the consideration of it; on the other hand it would remove a real grievance.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER said that of those who would vote in favour of the first clause, one-third would support it in the hope that Clause 4 would be dropped out of the Bill. Many would support it in the hope that Clause 4 would be not merely retained, but strengthened; and a third portion of the supporters of the Government who would vote for the clause would do so in the hope, which they had so strongly expressed, that the Bill would result in the banishment of religion from the teaching in State schools—a result repugnant to Roman Catholics and Nonconformists. It was certain that two of the three parties would be bitterly disappointed, and if the Government had made up their minds which of the three sections these were to be, they ought to say so before the division was taken.

LORD HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) who was received with Ministerial cries of "Divide," said he would endeavour to keep within the limits of the Chairman's ruling, but he had considerable doubt whether he could keep within the limits of the ruling of hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House who seemed to arrogate to themselves some of the functions of Chairman. If this question was to be looked at from a fair point of view, he would say that if the Government forced the acceptance of Clause 1 before Clauses 3 or 4 were considered, it would be like putting a noose round a man's neck and then trying to make a bargain with him. If Clause 1 were passed trustees and owners of non-provided schools would be absolutely driven without any alternative to accept any terms which the Government chose to offer them in the Bill, or which the local authorities might offer them when the Bill became law. Therefore, he thought it would be more convenient to the minority, and more consistent with the dignity of the Government if the course recommended by the Motion was adopted.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 160; Noes, 335. (Division List, No. 85.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres. Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry E. (Cork S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold Sir Arthur
Blake Edward
Boland John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Clarke, Sir Edward (City London
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nolan,, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)

Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John William (Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N. E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt, Hn. Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J.(S. Pancras W
Corbett, C.H(Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enock (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.

Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffiths, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davis, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen. W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horriman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C

Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E,
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N.(Doncastr
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembrck
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'h.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee

Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L,(Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col.Thos. Myles
Schwann,Chas.E.(Manchester
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw,Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph (Chesh
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxeth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thompson,J.WH(Somerset,E.)
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker. H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southmp'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A.(ElginandNairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ T. (Huddersfd
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr, Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) moved an Amendment to provide that the Bill should not come into operation until "after the first election of a local education authority which shall take place" after January 1st, 1908. He said that the object of his Amendment was to provide that there should be a special election *ad hoc* before the Bill came into operation at which forms should be issued which would be plain to the elector. School Boards had been abolished, and they all knew that in every part of the United Kingdom in which school boards existed, the electors were compelled to vote not only on the question of education, but upon topics connected with religion. This Bill introduced topics of greater importance to the English Church than disestablishment, and he thought that as the country had not had for two centuries a pronouncement on the kind of religion which should prevail in schools, it was only reasonable that the educational authority should be instructed by the electorate with a direct and distinct knowledge of what it was they were to do. Towns in England elected their councils to deal with gas works, tramway powers, roads, sewage, lighting, electric lighting, and kindred topics connected with municipal life. But once this Bill was passed, the municipal authorities would have to consider questions quite distinct from anything that had ever concerned them. Once this Bill became law, he thought that councillors ought to pass a competitive examination as to the teachings of the first four great Councils of the Christian Churches; as to the cause and course of the Reformation in the Church in England, and as to the causes which led to a great body of the Nonconformists seceding from the Church of England. A member of a town council ought to be acquainted also with the merits of the Secularist programme, because many gentlemen were coming forward in public life who with marked ability supported that programme. They had seen that from the utterances of the Labour Party in this House, which he thought was rather surprising, as he should consider that nobody would be more benefited by Christian teaching than the masters of this country. It was the fact, however, that very many of the Labour members were in favour of secular teaching; therefore it was not unfair they should say at the very outset of this Bill that the Local Education Authorities should be elected *ad hoc* and that every man who came forward as a town or municipal councillor should tell his supporters the lines upon which he desired that their children should be religiously educated. Hitherto municipal elections had been conducted upon questions connected with gas and water, but for the first time for many years, the Government were now introducing into English life animosity and sectarian bitterness which was unappeasable, and would not dream of any compromise. When one came to deal with the future life of a child, no compromise was possible; therefore it was desirable that every body who came forward to sit upon one of these bodies should understand the nature of the questions they had to deal with. There were some people who were singularly indifferent. They would vote for indifference. Some were singularly keen, and it was to be expected that throughout the country, when this question of religion was raised, there would be a keen contest. At one moment they were told that Clericalism was the enemy, and undoubtedly every one of those gentlemen who had been assailed because they preached the truths of the Christian religion as they understood them, would come forward on every municipal platform in the country to resist that statement, and to declare they were the friends and not the enemies of the country, and to advocate that every man who voted at a municipal election should vote for the truths they taught. He was very much struck on arriving from Ireland in the early hours of that morning to see a huge banner twelve or fifteen feet long and not less than three or four feet high in front of an English Church school. It bore the device "Churchmen, defend your schools," and he supposed every church school all over the country would have a similar banner or device. So it would be found that instead of being elected to deal with gas and water, roads and pavements, the only question which would be considered would be the eternal welfare of the children. That being so he did hope that before this new Education Authority was created there would be an election *ad hoc.* One of the advantages of the school boards was that at an election a clear cut issue was presented, and another advantage was there was a minority vote. As a result they might find a Catholic priest at the head of the poll in a constituency of 100,000 people, owing to the fact that the minority were able to pool their votes. In this case, however, there would be only one man one vote, and the only consolation the minority would get was to be told by the Minister for Education that suffering was the badge of all their tribe. It did not come to that in Clause 4, because under that one-fifth could rule four-fifths, and in some cases one-fourth could rule three-fourths. He was not going into that. All he said was that in creating this new authority the people of England should have the opportunity of creating it by a great and solemn act; that before this Bill came into force there should be an election of the authority which would have to administer it. The Government might be prepared to meet this by a separate clause. All he desired was that the voters of the country should know what they were doing, and should put this Act, when the Bill became an Act, into operation by a great and solemn declaration.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, after the word 'and,' to insert the words 'after the first election of a local education authority which shall take place.'"—(*Mr. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL said he did not think any man ever uttered a reproof in this House without regretting it. He regretted having said minorities must suffer, but the fact remained that they did suffer and always must suffer. The Amendment moved by the hon. and learned Gentleman would have the effect of postponing the operation of this Bill until after January 1st, 1908. With regard to the hon. Gentleman's desire that the people of the country should have an opportunity of electing their councillors before this Bill became law, he would point out that in March, 1907, there would be a triennial election of councillors, and so the people would have an opportunity of electing councillors so far as boroughs and urban districts were concerned where the councillors went out triennially. He did not think anything would be gained by the Amendment, and he thought on the whole, although the general question as to the date on which the Bill would commence might be considered after all its provisions were settled, it was desirable that the Government should take upon themselves the responsibility for saying when the Act should come into operation. It could not be allowed to come into operation piecemeal in different parts of the country.

LORD R. CECIL supported the Amendment, which he thought was of very great importance. He had been struck during the course of the debate by the utter failure of any hon. Member on the opposite side to realise the importance which attached to the Bill. The hon. Member for Glamorgan resented very bitterly the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition that Members on the Opposition side regarded the first clause as robbery. He could assure hon. Members that that was a very moderate statement of their views upon the clause. Hon. Members opposite would make a very great mistake if they thought they were going to carry this Bill through by ill-mannered clamours. Still more would they make a mistake if they thought this was the kind of Bill that could be forced through the House by brute force.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (Mr. CALDWELL, Lanark, Mid.): Order! order! The noble Lord must speak to the Amendment.

LORD R. CECIL bowed to the ruling of the Chair, and said that what he was endeavouring to emphasise was that an important change of this kind could not be entrusted to a body elected on grounds which had nothing to do with the religious education of the children. The Amendment proposed that the Bill should not come into operation until after the first election of the local authorities after a particular date, the object being to insure that the local authority which had to administer this Act should have been elected to carry out its provisions with the full knowledge of the important duties cast upon it. It was for that reason that he ventured to insist on the importance of the change and the difficulty any local body would have in respect to this matter. The right hon. Gentleman had said that by January 1st, 1908, before this Bill came into operation, a large number of local education authorities would have undergone a fresh election. That might be so, and it might not. It entirely depended whether the Bill came into operation by that date. It might not be in operation then. He could see no solid ground for objecting to the Amendment, because if that were true it would not postpone the operation of the Bill and therefore the Amendment would not have any effect. But if it did postpone the operation of the Bill, then it was only right and proper that there should be an election.

MR. T. M. HEALY said the right hon. Gentleman had not in any sense met the point of his Amendment. It was perfectly true that there would be an election of county councillors in March, 1907, but as regarded the urban areas, with which the Catholics were mostly concerned, they were not governed by county council elections at all, but by municipal elections. The system of those elections was triennial. Let them take a ward of three members. In March, 1907, a Methodist might be elected; in 1908, when the question became acute from the point of view of the Church of England, a Church of England man might be elected, and in 1909 a member of some other communion or an atheist. Then those three would have to select an alderman. Fancy the religious convictions of an alderman composed of those variegated religious components! If there was one thing which concerned the Catholics it was the urban areas, and it was only in those urban areas that Clause 4 was to have effect. It was absurd, it was idiotic, to say that there should be a body elected upon these presumable conditions to deal with this tremendous question. It was an absolute mockery to offer them Clause 4 under those conditions, and he respectfully said that this matter had not to be faced by county councils or rural councils. Those areas were not to have the power to put Clause 4 in force. As a matter of fact, the Government had fixed on 1908 because they reckoned on there being an election in 1907. Was it not a mockery to say that these bodies should decide upon questions of religion, as to questions of the Cowper-Temple clause, and all the other mysteries that affected the Christian faith and Christian mind? The spirit in which the Amendment had been tossed aside by the right hon. Gentleman showed, he feared, that he had not given the smallest consideration to the question. The right hon. Gentleman had looked at it solely from the point of view of the agricultural communities; he had not considered it from the point of view of the municipal communities, and, above all, he had not looked at it from the point of view of the piecemeal vote in these cases which had to be considered. Therefore, in 1908 there might be in London, Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds, and in all the other great constituencies of the country a municipal council elected as to two-thirds by reference to gas and water, and as to one-third by the question of Christianity or by what was called sectarian interest. And this was the body to which the tender mercies of the children were to be consigned. It was a body elected without the smallest regard to any Christian sentiment, but to decide solely on rates and taxes and questions of sewage and water-closets. It was to such bodies that they were going to entrust the religious future of the children.

*MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) considered the reply of the right hon. Gentleman a very inadequate one to the objection that so many of the large urban authorities which would have the largest share in carrying out Clause 4 would not have an election before the time they came into operation. That applied with special force to those Northern towns in which a large proportion of the population was denominational. Unless this Amendment were accepted the Commission which was to be appointed would have ample time to re-model and alter the *status* of the schools which came under its control without the electorate having any chance of giving their opinion on the matter. This was not treating the parents and the electorate fairly. Without some such Amendment as was now suggested a grave injustice would be inflicted. Surely they could trust the people, which was the doctrine so frequently voiced by Ministerialists, and let them carry out the Act in their own way even if it retarded the operation of the Bill for a very little time. A great many local authorities at the present time had been elected on totally different issues from those which would be brought within their purview under this Bill. He would grant that a certain number of local authorities had been elected on the question of the carrying out of the Education Act of 1902, and he would admit still further that a certain number had been elected on the principle of opposition to that Act. But this Bill would confer an absolutely new power and give an entirely new scope to the local authority. It would give the local authorities a chance of dealing with the rights of parents and children that they had never before possessed. He therefore maintained that before Parliament put these enormous powers in the hands of local authorities, elected for absolutely different purposes, the electorate ought to be given a chance of choosing men whom they believed to be capable and honestly anxious to carry out its provisions. They on the Opposition side had been told that they had said too much about the inalienable right of parents. This Amendment would allow that right to be safeguarded. In view of the great responsibilities they were placing upon the local authorities they ought to be very careful about rejecting this Amendment, which was founded on such just and fair principles. Certainly no one who had the religious interests of the children really at heart could oppose the Amendment.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said there were a number of Amendments on the Paper which they could not expect would appeal to supporters of the Government, but this Amendment, he ventured to say, did appeal, and appealed strongly, to hon. Members on the Ministerial side. Since 1902 they had heard everywhere clamours for the *ad hoc* principle, and that principle underlay this Amendment. It claimed that the religious instruction of the children should not be placed under the control of an authority in the election of which parents had not had the opportunity of ascertaining whether they were the persons to whom they would safely commit such a high and holy responsibility. He commended to Ministerialists the consideration of the *ad hoc* principle. As it was, the men who were selected for their knowledge of mere material matters, who might be most unspiritual persons, might be called upon to administer the greatest of all responsibilities that could be laid upon any man with reference to the children. The other day, when the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was speaking, he ventured to interpose to state that he knew a borough where, since 1870, no religious instruction of any kind had been given to the children. They wanted the opportunity of changing that, especially when they considered that, not only were the council schools in that borough to be under the control of such men, but also all the voluntary schools in which definite and religious denominational instruction was now given, whether Wesleyan, Roman, or Anglican, and which was held to be of such vital importance, and for which they had made such sacrifice since 1870, and far beyond. This religion was to be handed over in those borough councils to men who had been elected because qualified for such matters as other speakers had before enumerated. He had great pleasure in supporting the hon. and learned Gentleman's Amendment.

SIR W. ROBSON said that by the Act of 1902 the duty of controlling education was taken away from the School Boards, who were elected *ad hoc* apparently as persons of high spiritual perception, and handed over without any interval for an election to the "gas and water" people, who apparently were thought sufficiently qualified to undertake it. That reminiscence discounted the indignation of the hon. Member who had just sat down. What was the substance of this complaint with regard to the transfer of the control of the school in which religious instruction was given?

MR. CARLILE said that under the Act of 1902 religious instruction was left in the hands of those whom they thought were spiritually minded persons qualified to deal with it.

SIR W. ROBSON said that under this Bill religious teaching was to remain in the hands of a religious community. [OPPOSITION Cries of "No, no!" and "Where?"] Special facilities and extended facilities were to be given to those who desired that in voluntary schools religious teaching of their own faith should be given. Those facilities would be paid for by the people who believed in the doctrines that would be taught. Those facilities would be put in the hands of persons of exceptional spiritual perception—they would be taken out of the hands of the lay teacher and put in the hands of the ecclesiastical teacher. That was denounced as a transference to some persons of minor or inferior spiritual perception. There was nothing in the objection.

MR. T. M. HEALY: There is nothing in the answer.

SIR W. ROBSON said that substantially the religious teaching given now would be continued under the Bill, and if it was not continued it would be the fault of those who believed in the religion which they desired to have taught. There was no reason on that ground why the operation of the Bill should be delayed. The hon. and learned Member for North Louth had said they must have an election *ad hoc*. There would be elections in 1906 and 1907 in the urban districts. Did the hon. Member for North Louth desire that the operation of this Bill should be delayed until three years after it had passed in order that there might be three annual elections upon it? That was doing little justice to those who would vote in the elections of 1906 and 1907, who would have ample opportunity of giving effect to their opinions in those elections. There was no reason why the Bill should be delayed on that account.

*SIR EDWARD CLARKE (City of London) said he was glad the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had been present to listen to the speech of the Solicitor-General. He had said, Why should they have three elections at each of which religious bodies would stir up religious strife? He foresaw the mischief as well as they did. Their suggestion was that it would be better to have no religious strife at these elections at all. They knew that by a more excellent way than was provided in the Bill there would be no necessity for any religious strife. The Solicitor-General had also said that religious instruction would remain in the hands of those who had directed it hitherto, because facilities were to be given for religious teaching. He wished it said so in the Bill. There was no such provision in the Bill. There was a provision that the local education authority might come to an agreement concerning religious instruction, but there was no compulsion on them to come to any agreement even in regard to the minor facilities, still less in regard to extended facilities included in that extraordinary clause, No. 4. He had not the opportunity of hearing the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill upon its introduction, but he had read it, and he thought the same draft that must have been before him then had remained in the memory of his hon. and learned friend the Solicitor-General. In his speech on the first reading the President of the Board of Education said these facilities were to be given and it was only when they saw the Bill in print that they found there was nothing in the Bill which would compel those facilities to be given. If hon. Gentlemen opposite believed in local control they ought to accept the Amendment, because it was by it alone that they could censure that the administration of the Act would come into the hands of people who had been commissioned by the people at large to carry out those duties. If they did not believe in the principle of local control or intelligent local control, then he could understand their tossing this important matter of religious education to a body not elected in order to deal with it, and which hitherto had had no power to deal with it. It had been said that in the Bill of 1902 those who passed it had handed over this educational question to an authority not elected with a knowledge of the matter at all, but to local bodies already constituted for other purposes. That was perfectly true, but the Act of 1902 did not hand over any authority or power with regard to religious education. The denominational schools remained under the managers subject to the presence on the board of two persons who were intended to be the representatives of public judgment and public opinion in dealing with the secular teaching. [AN HON. MEMBER: Not in board schools.] In that respect the Act of 1902 made no difference.

MR. LEIF JONES: Under that Act the local School Boards directly elected by the parents had their schools transferred to the county authorities.

*SIR EDWARD CLARKE said he did not think he was misrepresenting what the learned Solicitor-General had stated. He said that in 1902 the same thing was done as that of which they were now complaining, namely, that the responsibility for education was thrown upon bodies not elected for that purpose. In reply to that he contended that the great question of denominational teaching did not come under the alteration made in 1902, and that so far as the denominational schools were concerned, under the Act of 1902 religious instruction remained substantially under the control of those who had had control of it in the past. Therefore, on all three points he would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to take a different view of the proposal now made. If it was desirable to avoid strife on religious questions, surely it was desirable to modify this Bill so that that strife would not be aroused. If it was desirable to have the judgment of the people who had been elected, and who, knowing the responsibilities they had to fulfil, were prepared to be entrusted with those responsibilities, then it was only reasonable that this Amendment should be accepted, and that they should take care not to throw on those bodies, elected without any regard to this matter, duties so onerous and difficult.

*MR. DICKINSON (St. Pancras, N.) said he should like to point out that the effect of this Amendment would be that in London and the other administrative counties the Act would not come into operation until after March, 1910—that was to say, they would have to wait four years for the Act to become effective.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 134; Noes, 284. (Division List, No. 86.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood RtHn.Sir AlexF.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)

Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. T. H. Mealy and Mr. O'Hare.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carylon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, NE.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collings, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E, Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander

Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson,W. H.(St. Pancras,N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hove,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wiliam (Carnarvonshie
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred, John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil-(St.Pancras,E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann,Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. H.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, Geor (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dunbartonshire)
White, Luke, (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk,Mid.)
Wood, T M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr J. A. Pease.

Mr. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) moved an Amendment to leave out "January" and insert "April" in the first Clause. He said that it would be remembered that the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education had said that it would be a great improvement if all the schools were to adopt the same year, and he hoped the Government would accept his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, Clause 1, to leave out the word 'January' and to insert the word 'April.'"—(*Mr. Pike Pease.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'January' stand part of the Clause."

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.) said that the hon. Member had not said much in support of his Amendment. He supposed that the date proposed for the recognition of public elementary schools did not correspond with the financial year recognised in the House. The right hon. the Minister for Education had told the House that the exact date on which the Bill would come into operation would be carefully considered.

MR. PIKE PEASE asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that it had been stated that the date on which this Bill would come into operation would be considered hereafter, but now that the date was actually before them it seemed to him the proper time for its consideration. As the Bill now stood the initiative for making any arrangement was to come from the local education authority. Anyone who read the Bill must see that there was a wide opportunity for discussion as to the arrangements which might be made for the use of the schools, as to the school hours, and as to facilities which were to be given. All these as the Bill now stood were to be matters of negotiation, although he and his friends hoped that the Bill would be made mandatory and not voluntary. If the negotiations broke down, and the local authority still wanted to acquire possession of a non-provided school during school hours, their next course was to apply to the Commission. Many thousands of schools would come before the Commission. He thought the Government far too sanguine in their estimate of the time which would be necessary to make the arrangements for the transfer of the schools. It would be very much better if they would give plenty of latitude in respect of time, and then the friends of voluntary schools would be more sure that they would get fair treatment both by the local authorities and the Commission. There was a strong probability that the Commission would find itself burdened with a large amount of work in coming to its decisions. He regarded the whole of Clause 8 as of the most threatening character in respect of the voluntary schools. If the Government declined to grant this concession in respect of time, he should be disposed to think that the Commission was after all a mere process of guillotine, constituted in order to transfer the property in the voluntary schools in the shortest time, and with the smallest amount of consideration to the local education authority. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'eight,' and insert the word 'ten.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'eight' stand part of the Clause."

MR. LOUGH said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment. A very generous promise had been made in regard to this matter of dates. The right hon. Gentleman insisted on taking the view that there would be a struggle in every locality. But what if the negotiations should all be carried out peacefully? If a change of this kind was to be made he was sure that the Committee would agree that it would be better if the period of transition were not unduly prolonged. At present there were in the country 327 local education authorities, and the machinery for all this business existed. There would be hardly any of the difficulties which existed in 1902 when the whole of the machinery had to be put down.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he did not agree with the hon. Gentleman, because if they left this question unsettled they would have to leave other dates in the Bill unsettled. The Bill provided for other dates. For instance in Clause 8, January 1st, 1907, was mentioned, then if they got out of the difficulty in regard to that date, Clause 11 mentioned another, namely, January 1st, 1908. In that and other clauses, moreover, the date of January 1st, 1909, was mentioned. Therefore, on the Government's own admission, it would require three years to get this Bill into operation. Had not the Committee therefore better minimise the difficulty in regard to these dates, which the hon. Gentleman had admitted, by fixing a later date and one which would enable them to get these proceedings in force in a proper manner? In regard to Clauses 10 and 11 he did not think that it would be a very agreeable task for the owners of voluntary schools to carry them on under the conditions laid down for such a number of years. In view of the minimising effect of this Amendment upon the later clauses he would urge the Government to reconsider the point.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said he did not think that the Secretary to the Board of Education fully appreciated the meaning of the Amendment when he described it as unfair. It was a perfectly fair Amendment.

MR. LOUGH: I did not say it was an unfair Amendment.

LORD BALCARRES said he was sorry if he had made a mistake, but he thought the hon. Gentleman had so described it. In his opinion, if this Amendment was not accepted, it would be impossible to bring other clauses of the Bill into operation in time. If the hon. Gentleman would refer to the definition clause he would see that the expression "owners" was defined in a very wide manner, and anybody who could be conceived to have a trusteeship or ownership would be able to put his case forward before a transfer. That was of course just and proper, but the owners, being a composite body, would have to correspond between themselves and would have to take legal advice so as to define their position in regard to each particular trust. If the hon. Member would consult his officials at the Board of Education they would, he was sure, assure him that there was no branch of the public work of the Education Department which was slower and more complex than that which dealt with trustees and their responsibility. The hon. Gentleman thought that these matters might be very easily arranged. That might be the case, but it was difficult to believe it would be so when it was remembered that the Act would extend to 14,000 or 15,000 schools in regard to which arrangements under Clause 2 and proceedings under Clause 8 would have to be dealt with. The trustees or owners of these schools would have to start by defining their own position in the matter. They would have to take legal advice and discover what their responsibilities were. Having done that they would communicate with the local education authority or the local education authority would communicate with them. Of course the local education authority would immediately refer this matter to a sub-committee, because it would be quite impossible for the whole council to look into the details of each case. All this took time, and even then, when the local education authority had prepared a scheme, the owners or trustees could not, he thought, take it off-hand without further inquiry. That again would take time. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No, no!"] Well, he thought that was a reasonable view to take, and after the hon. Gentleman had had experience of the cumbrous process of dealing with trustees at the Education Department he would know that it was a matter which could not be pressed forward with great speed. In cases where arrangements had not been made the question was taken before the court—the triumvirate—and the whole question might be re-opened. Questions as to definition of the terms "owners" and "trustees" might arise; all these subjects might have to be re-opened and the matter referred back to the local education authority or to the trustees.

No doubt the right hon. Gentleman took the power of extending the time, but the original intention was to deal with 14,000 or 15,000 schools in twelve months. He did not think it possible that these schemes could be satisfactorily brought into operation in the limited time placed at the disposal of the local education authority and the trustees. Under these circumstances he submitted that the Amendment was quite a reasonable one and worthy of the consideration of the Government.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke) thought that the Amendment was a very reasonable one indeed, and he was certain that if hon. Members opposite realised the view which was taken, not merely on those Benches, but outside the House, of the proposed constitution of this Commission by all of those who were in any way conversant with the working of the law, they would listen very carefully to the plea which was being urged for delay on that score. For his part he did not attach great importance to the plea for delay in order that there might be time for the making of arrangements. In those cases where arrangements were possible, they would not take long to make, especially having regard to the position which the contracting parties would occupy. But in the great majority of cases no arrangement would be possible, because these schools were held under trust deeds and the trustees were bound by law to maintain the particular school for the purpose of having Roman Catholic teaching or Church of England teaching alone afforded. It therefore did not rest with the trustees to make a bargain which would deprive such a school of its character. They had no legal competence or power to do so, and in every case where there was a trust they would be driven to go to this Commission. The Commission were vested with a most delicate and difficult work. They were empowered by this Bill, in so many words, to come to the conclusion that an absolute and direct violation of the trust deed was the best way of carrying out the trust. They were dealing with cases in which a man had died and left money for the establishment of a school and expressed his wishes as to what should be taught in that school.

MR MYER (Lambeth, N.) rose to a point of Order and asked if the hon. Member was in order in discussing the merits of the trusteeships question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. EMMOTT, Oldham), who had taken the Chair, said he had only just come in and he would listen to the hon. Member.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER said he was endeavouring to keep in order. His plea was that the Government ought to accept this Amendment in order to show that they intended that the Commission should be a judicial body. Was it possible that they could dispose of more than one school in one day? Could they tear up a man's scheme and arrange for a wholly changed *status* of a school at the rate of more than one school in one day? He thought that the Amendment would throw a great light upon the question of whether the Commission was to be a judicial and impartial body on which those interested in voluntary schools could depend. There were only 200 days in the legal year, and supposing the Commission made a complete new scheme every day they would only dispose of 200 cases in the year. Was it reasonable in view of that to object to the two years postponement? If the Commission was to be a mere packed body of hardy partisans the period named in the Bill was no doubt ample, but if it was to be a real judicial body, in which those interested in voluntary schools could place confidence, then the Amendment was most reasonable. The proposal of his right hon. friend was a most reasonable one. Nobody could say whether the Government intended that this body should be a judicial and impartial body or not.

MR. WYNDHAM said that under Clause 8 the Commission came into being if an arrangement had not been made before January 1st, 1907. That being so, these words were a direction to the Commission and nothing else. That was why they thought them improper. There was no need to have a date in the first clause at all, because in the clause relating to the Commission it said that if an arrangement was not come to by a certain date the local authority could apply to the Commission and the Commission would make a scheme. Why state, therefore, at the beginning of the clause, which was drastic and peremptory, that the Commission had to complete its labours within this brief period? They complained of the clause because it gave a bias to anything that succeeded in the Bill; it gave a bias to any administrative or judicial action that might be taken under it. When it said that all these matters were to be settled, defined, and laid down within this brief period they found in that an index to the whole tenor of the Bill, and they were justified in saying that the Government should so far concede to the Opposition as to give them two years as the definite period for the confiscating purposes of the Bill, which could not be carried out with any decency in a shorter period.

Sir E. CARSON (Dublin University) said he did not wish to detain the Committee; he merely desired to put two Questions to the right hon. Gentleman. First, he wished to know what was to happen if the schemes were not settled by the date mentioned in the Bill? Were they to be dropped, and were some schools to be left without any terms of settlement at all? On the other hand, was a Bill going to be brought in to prolong the time during which the Commisisoners might perform their duties? That was the first Question; the second was, had the right hon. Gentleman calculated how many schemes were likely to be settled, because unless they knew approximately it seemed to him to be a very unbusinesslike way of drawing up a Bill by setting a rigid limit of time for the Commissioners to get through their work?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said it was curious how Members opposite desired to press this matter through before any answer at all had been given to the question which had been put. Up to the present they had had no answer at all, owing to the right hon. Gentleman not having been in his place, and it was only fair to the right hon. Gentleman that if he wished he should now have an opportunity of realising the points upon which they would like some information. The Bill provided practically that this Star Chamber procedure should not come into operation till January, 1907. The Bill by its first clause provided that on and after the 1st day of January, 1908, no school should be recognised unless it was a school provided by the local education authority. His right hon. friend had ventured to ask, and it was a reasonable question, whether the Government could give any estimate as to whether their anticipation was likely to be realised. Out of the numbers of schools that must come within the schemes of trusts there might be a very large number that would come within the purview of the Commission. Were the Commissioners supposed to undertake their work in one year, and, if not, was there to be another Bill? It was impossible that the whole of these schools could be adjudicated upon in any judicial manner in anything like twelve months. It was a perfectly reasonable request, and they wanted to know what was in contemplation. Were they to be told that twelve months was the period in which all these adjudications would take place; if so, they would like to know on what that calculation was based? If it was not so, then the Bill must fail, because there was no power to extend the time beyond one year.

Mr. BIRRELL said that, as the Bill stood, the local education authority could begin making its arrangements under Clause 2 to take over any schools it was desirous of taking over at any moment after the Bill became law. On 1st January, 1908, the State aid and the rate aid ceased to be given to any existing voluntary school; it could only be given to those schools which were under the control of the local education authority. Consequently the local education authority must make provision either by taking over the voluntary schools, or, if there was no alternative, for building new schools. Between January 1st, 1908, and January 1st, 1909, the authority would, under Clause 10, have power to use any voluntary school buildings they might wish to use temporarily, subject to the proper obligation of allowing religious instruction in those schools to go on as before. After January 1st, 1909, the local education authority would be responsible for providing all the schools which were necessary for the elementary education of the country. He agreed that it was difficult to say how long precisely it might take either under Clause 2 or by the proposals before the Commission of three. The Government and the Committee had to make some estimate of their own. The Government were of opinion that the time allowed was ample and sufficient, and to grant more time was not to obtain greater security that the difficulties would be settled. If some pressure of time were not exerted, the negotiations might linger on for ever. He was hopeful that when the Bill was better understood than at the present time, a good deal would be done under Clause 2, aided by the rulings of the Commission, which would be a perfectly impartial body applying principles of law. But they had to put some period to them, and in the opinion of the Government the time they had afforded was ample and sufficient. If it were proved by right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite that the Government's calculations were mistaken, it would be necessary to extend the time. The matter did not admit of exact calculation, because so much depended on the temper and disposition of the parties concerned.

MR. WYNDHAM expressed his obligation to the right hon. Gentleman for having dealt, from the point of view of his own justification of them, with many of the dates in the Bill, but pointed out that he had omitted to deal with the one date mentioned. Clause 8 stated that if no arrangements had been made with respect to the school house under this Act, at any time after the 1st day of January, 1907, the local authority could apply to the Commission to make a scheme. On whom was the pressure going to be put? The words at the beginning of this Clause, "On and after the 1st January, 1908," did not apply to the trustees or to the owners of the schools, because if they failed to come to an arrangement before the 1st January, 1907, the local authority, the other party to this precious bargain, under these very fair conditions, could at once back out of the bargain and have the proceedings removed to the Court—because this Commission was a court, and he treated it as a court. Here the Government said, not to the owners and trustees of the schools, but to this Commission, the only tribunal from which they could seek justice tempered with mercy, that they must deal with all these intricate legal questions involving trusts respecting 14,000 voluntary schools in twelve months. It would really expedite the proceedings if the right hon. Gentleman would answer the arguments he was venturing to advance, and in this matter he could assure him that he did not wish to bring heat into the discussion. He had shown much self-restraint in face of the twice repeated threat that if those concerned did not agree with their adversaries quickly the credit of the State was sufficient to build schools all over the country. Those were the terms under which the trustees and the people who cared for the teaching given in these schools were asked to bargain. Was not that enough? Was it necessary also to say in the first line of the Bill that the only legal protection to be given was to be confined within twelve months? What credit could be attached, not to the sincerity, but to the value of the Government's promises at later stages of the Bill if in the first line such protection as was afforded in this miserable manner was to be shut off absolutely when the twelve months had come to an end? After that justice had been done! Then they came to execution. What was the nature of the execution? After the time limit had expired what would happen to the schools which had failed to come to an arrangement? Would they become efficient schools under some obscure clauses in the Act of 1860, or what would happen to them? Supposing they were deprived of all State and rate aid, would they go on? The answer to this question was not in the Bill, and it was not given in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that he noted the Government's challenge to the ratepayer to provide schools all over the country in place of voluntary schools. He trusted that the ratepayers throughout the country, who were already complaining of the cost of education, would also note this. The Government might be left on this point to settle accounts with the ratepayers. But if the ratepayers failed them under this most economical of Governments he supposed the taxpayers would be called in. He would leave that to be settled between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the person he had described as a sturdy beggar. But would the President of the Board of Education pay attention to the dates in this clause? If the voluntary school had not come to terms by the date specified it became liable to a scheme framed by the Commission on the initiative of the local authority, and he trusted some assurance would be given that the Commission was going to be a judicial body, for the date in Clause 1 and the words in Clause 8 gave a very broad limit to the Commissioners to make short work of the voluntary schools.

Mr. LAURENCE HARDY said he did not think the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had quite accounted for the difference between the date in Sub-section 6 of Clause 9 and the date inserted in Clause 1. As matters stood, while the Commissioners could go on making schemes after 1908, nothing short of an Act of Parliament would be required to enable non-provided schools to receive the assistance they had always received.

Sir E. CARSON ventured to make an appeal, because he could hardly imagine that he had rightly understood the answer of the Minister for Education. He asked the right hon. Gentleman what would happen if the Commissioners had not time to carry out the necessary schemes for taking over these schools. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to reply—

> "If they had not time, people had better come to an agreement, or if they do not, we build at the public expense."

Did the House of Commons think that a fair argument? The default was not because people were unwilling to submit schemes, but because a proper date had not been fixed by the House of Commons. It was not a fair, was what he called a bullying argument. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say—

> "A good deal will depend upon the temper in which these matters are approached by the country in administering this Bill."

He entirely agreed. Did the right hon. Gentleman think that at the very moment he was driving those who valued their religion out of their schools he would add to their good temper by telling them that for no fault of their own they were bound to contribute to the expense of erecting new schools? The right hon. Gentleman had not yet realised that there were people in this country in earnest in this matter.

Mr. BIRRELL said he certainly did not intend to jest. If when the appointed date arrived there were still *sub judice* a number of schemes before the Commissioners who were considering the proposals on their merits, and this happened simply because there was not time to consider them all, he did not mean that all these schools should at once become provided schools without any regard being had to the terms of the proposals.

Sir E. CARSON: But it is in your Bill.

Mr. BIRRELL said it might be that they had inaccurately estimated the mode and the manner in which these transactions would be carried on, and he quite agreed that it might be necessary by legislation to insert another date if they found the Court blocked by schemes which had not been properly adjudicated upon. He had no desire, simply by the operation of a particular date, to deprive the owners of the schools of the facilities given to them by applications to these Commissions. The Government had to make a proposal of their own, and, after full consideration, they came to the conclusion that these dates were adequate. He was not certain now that it would be found to be ample, but if so be when the date arrived that the Court was blocked with schemes which had not been properly considered it would then, no doubt, be necessary to extend the time.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR thanked the right hon. Gentleman for that clear and conciliatory answer to one of the questions at all events which had been put to him, but he thought the right hon. Gentleman would see that that answer showed that some Amendment of the clause was necessary. The Commissioners might find as many cases blocking their Courts as there were standing in the way of the Judges of the High Court. The right hon. Gentleman had admitted that his estimate of time might be wrong, and that the difficulty, if it arose, would be so serious that further legislation might be necessary. If further legislation were required, this Bill was very badly drafted. They ought to arrange this Bill so that another would not be required. He would suggest the difficulty would be overcome by adding after the first day of January, 1908, these words: "or such later date as may be determined."

MR. BIRRELL said he was disposed to think it would not be a bad thing to allow a latitude in this matter, although he still was of opinion that when the matter came to be considered and the trust deeds came to be classified under a few heads the task of the Commissioners would not, perhaps, be so gigantic as the imagination of the right hon. Gentleman suggested. He thought the whole question of the date for the commencement of the Bill was a subject which they might, when they knew exactly what the nature of the Bill was, very fairly reconsider; and he was not at all indisposed to allow the latitude which the right hon. Gentleman had suggested, that the clause should specify January 1st, 1908, "or such other date as"—— [Cries of "No."] The intention was simply to provide for a conjuncture which he hoped might never occur—namely, that the labours of the Commission might not be concluded. He thought words to that effect would not be beyond the ingenuity of draftsmen. It seemed to him that Clause 8 would be the proper place to insert words of that kind.

MR. WYNDHAM considered that if Clause 8 were amended in the direction indicated, these words would be made more intractable than at present. He hoped more latitude would be given for arriving at some arrangement. If the words suggested by the right hon. Gentleman were inserted in Clause 8 the Bill would be nonsense; whatever change was made must harmonise with the Bill as a whole.

MR. BIRRELL said that any school without State or rate aid could keep its doors open as a school inviting children to attend it. If it submitted to inspection and became a certified efficient school, attendance at that school was recognised as obedience to the law.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that if the right hon. Gentleman would agree to the words "January 1st, 1908, or such later date as the King in Council may determine," he thought his right hon. friend might well be disposed to withdraw his Amendment, and the Committee might avoid a division.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) hoped the President of the Board of Education would not agree to that. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover upon this point was nonsense. If the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Dover had read the Bill, they would have seen that what they wanted was provided for. Clause 9, Subsection 6, provided that the powers of the Commission should remain in force until December 31st, 1908, and if there had not been agreement, the Commission could be continued by Order in Council. Clause 10 provided for the continued use of a school from January 1st, 1908, to January 1st, 1909, if an agreement had not been arrived at. If that was not long enough to allow the question to be settled, he did not know what more could be done for the trustees of denominational schools. He thought the Bill perfectly elastic under Sections 9 and 10, and hoped the President of the Board of Education would go no further.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought it was a little premature for the hon. Member for North Camberwell to say that his right hon. friend the Member for Dover was talking nonsense. It would be a fair retort to ask the hon. Member to take the trouble to read Clause 1. That clause provided that on and after January 1st, 1908, no school should be recognised as a public elementary school unless it was a school provided by the local authority. The Commission might be sitting, and its sittings might be prolonged under Clause 9, or the local authority might be taking possession of the schools without payment under Clause 10. But a school would cease to be recognised if by January 1st, 1908, it had not become a provided school under Clause 1, and it could only become a provided school within the meaning of the Act, being a voluntary school to start with, if either an arrangement had been made under Clause 3, or a scheme had been made under Clause 8. Under these circumstances he thought the hon. Member for North Camberwell should consider whether it was not to himself or to Clause 1 that the word nonsense was most appropriate.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 349; Noes, 171. (Division List No. 87.)

AYES.

Abraham, William, (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy,
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt. Hn Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W,
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, David (Montogomery Co
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel, T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffiths, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hederson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gradner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred

Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund,G.(Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. Colchester)
Pearson,W. H. M. (Suffolk,Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'h
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Straus, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Snnderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan. E.)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H. (Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southamp'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk, Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt Hn. HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred

Balfour, Rt HnA.J.(CityLond.)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil,Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn. J.(Birm.)
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Coates, E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement(Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King,Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal, E.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh,W
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Stanley,Hon.Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt. Hn J. G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Walker, Col. W. H.(Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Mid, Kent)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) moved to insert after 1908 the words "or such later day as the Board of Education shall appoint in any district upon the application of the local education authority for the purposes of this section." He appealed to the House to assent to the desirability of his Amendment because he did not think hon. Members had entirely realised that if the discussion of this Bill continued, as it probably would, till late in the autumn there would only be about two months to elapse, or perhaps less, before the Christmas holidays intervened and there would be no possibility of coming to an arrangement before the January 1st, 1907. He had, therefore, some reason to hope that the right hon. Gentleman would accept his Amendment. They had heard a great deal about the concessions which were going to be made by the Government, and he should be very proud if the first little concession which they were going to give should be upon the Amendment which he had moved. He thought there was some hope, as the Minister for Education on the last Amendment virtually admitted that it was necessary to have an Amendment more or less to this effect, the right hon. Gentleman having said that he did not think it was beyond the ingenuity of men to devise an Amendment which he could accept. He hoped he had anticipated the right hon. Gentleman's wishes in drafting this Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'eight, to insert the words 'or such later day as the Board of Education shall appoint in any district upon the application of the local education authority for the purposes of this section.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. BIRRELL: This is very much the same proposal all over again. I want to say that the Government are quite prepared when they come to Clause 8 to deal with the proceedings of the Court by extending the time in order to ensure that all the duties put upon the Commission shall receive proper and due judicial attention, but to insert an Amendment here will be most inconvenient. It will extend and add to the difficulties of the transferring period with which we have to deal, and I think it will be far better that we should adhere to the clause as it now stands than provide for a difficulty which perhaps may never arise when we come to Clause 8, viz.: that the Bill as originally drafted does not give sufficient time to the Commission to enable them to deal with the cases which come before them.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR thought the right hon. Gentleman had misapprehended the point of the Amendment. Under the Bill, the bargains were to be made before January 1st, 1907. The proceedings on the Bill might, probably would, last for a considerable time. How could they have any security, any hope, that there would be adequate time left, before the beginning of next year, for carrying out these transactions between the various owners and trustees of voluntary schools and the local authorities with whom they were expected to bargain? He did not see how that could be put right by any Amendment to Clause 8. They were told that this Clause 1 was the spinal cord of the Bill and dealt with the whole subject, and Amendments of this kind ought to be made there, and not on subsequent clauses. The point was not the same as that which they had been discussing, and they should deal with it now upon the clause which pre-eminently concerned the working of the Bill. If they were going to put a pistol at the heads of the unfortunate owners and managers of the voluntary schools and say that within three weeks or a month they must come to a satisfactory arrangement with the local education authority they were going to make the Bill unworkable.

Mr. BIRRELL: So far as voluntary arrangements under Clause 2 are concerned it seems to me that the scheme of the Bill provides ample time.

***Sir WILLIAM ANSON** did not think that the President of the Board of Education understood the difficulty presented. There was not sufficient time before January 1st, 1907, for these arrangements to have been arrived at, considering the vast number of voluntary schools, the difficulty of making arrangements, and the possibility that the Bill might not become law until nearly the close of this year. Then there was the period up to January, 1908, when either an arrangement or a scheme might be made. He did not think that the short period of twelve months was enough to allow for all negotiations with regard to subjects of a complicated character taking place.

Sir FRANCIS LOWE thought the Amendment was in favour of the Government and the Board of Education who had to make this Bill work and to secure that the arrangements between the owners and trustees of the voluntary schools were of a satisfactory character. These arrangements would be complicated and take a long time. If the Government wished the Bill to succeed they should support the Amendment, and allow a sufficient time for negotiations to be brought to a successful conclusion. Under those circumstances he could not for the life of him see why they should not accept the Amendment.

Sir E. CARSON said that it occurred to him that the real substance of this Amendment had not been replied to by the right hon. Gentleman. It was not to extend the time at all, but to give the local authority, if it deemed it necessary, power to apply to the Board of Education for an extension of time. Did the right hon. Gentleman so distrust the Board of Education that he thought that they would not be able to grant the time asked for if it was necessary, or to refuse if it was not necessary; or was the right hon. Gentleman afraid from something which had happened in the Committee this afternoon that he would not be allowed to have any discretion upon the matter? Had it really come to this that an application made by the local education authority, which was the authority to which they were going to entrust all the various powers that were to be created under this Bill, was to be looked upon as something which would destroy or overrule some of the main provisions of the Bill? Could they not even trust the local education authority to make an honest application for a proper period of time to settle a scheme for a particular district? They could not trust the local authority, and the Board of Education could not trust itself, and it was under those conditions that right hon. and hon. Gentlemen were going to legislate.

Lord R. CECIL said he could not help thinking that if the right hon. Gentleman would disregard the views of some of his extremely zealous supporters he would not dissent from this Amendment. Even the hon. Member for North Camberwell, who prided himself on having mastered the contents of the Bill, had not yet quite mastered the dates. Under Clause 1 all grants and rates came to an end in all non-provided schools on January 1st, 1908. The school must, therefore, come to an end then, and the only way of extending it was under Clause 10, which provided that from January 1st, 1908, to January 1st, 1909, the local authority might—he observed, without payment to the owners—occupy a school for the purpose of public elementary education. Therefore it came to this, that unless the owners agreed, or unless the Commission managed to determine a scheme by the 1st January, 1908, which might well be an impossible matter, the owners were bound to hand over their school without payment on that date. The alternative was that the local authority should build a school and crush out the voluntary school. The fact remained that under this Bill as it stood unless the whole of the proceedings were concluded by the 1st January, 1909, they came to a hopeless *impasse*. Surely that was an unjust and unreasonable provision. He would have thought until he had had experience of the present House of Commons that the only question before them was what was the best provision to be made for meeting that difficulty, and that the proposition of his right hon. friend the Member for Oxford University was extremely fair and moderate. His Amendment proposed to leave the extension of the time to the Board of Education on the application of the local authority. That was only a fair and reasonable provision.

Mr. BIRRELL said the noble Lord had overlooked the fact he had already stated that the time for making an extension of time would be on Clause 8 or on Clause 10.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the interpolation of the right hon. Gentleman showed that he did not understand that the date in Clause 1 applied to the Commission and not to the recalcitrant trustees or owners. Clause 10 was another pistol in the armoury of the Government, and if arrangements were not arrived at under that clause, then it was a case of "Bother all arrangements, go and take the school." The local authority would walk in without any arrangements. When discussing this Bill on Second Reading the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was outraged in his feelings because some of them had spoken of confiscation, and said that they might as well say the clause contemplated burglary. He received a post-card from a teacher next day who said that this Bill did propose burglary by Clause 10.

Dr. MACNAMARA said that upon the Second Reading of the Bill the noble Lord the Member for Marylebone said that money was nothing to him.

Lord R. CECIL said he wished the hon. Gentleman would not misquote him; he certainly never went so far as to say that money was nothing to him. The hon. Member must have forgotten that he had practised at the Parliamentary Bar. What he did say was that money was nothing compared to the religious interests.

Dr. MACNAMARA said he would put it in this way—that money was next to nothing to the noble Lord; that the most important thing was the continuance of the religious instruction in the way that it had been given in the past under the trust. Let him refer the noble Lord to the Sub-section (2) of Clause 10, which provided that the local education authority should permit religious instruction to be given in the school of the same character as that previously given, and also permit teachers in the school to give that instruction as part of their duties. The noble Lord was ungrateful to the Government for having conceded to him all that he could ask for.

Lord R. CECIL said the hon. Member seemed to think that, because the Government had not done the grossest injustice that could be conceived, therefore he ought to be perfectly satisfied that they should take his money and not provide that for which the money was originally given.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 354. (Division List, No. 88.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Acland-Hood,Rt Hn.Sir AlexF.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt Hn Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn.Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,Rt. Hn. J.(Birm.
Clarke,Sir Edward (City Lond.)
Coates,E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'd
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
ills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn. Col.W
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King,Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants, Fareh'm

Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis(EdinburghW
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow. W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingtn
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith,Abel H. (Hertford,East)
Smith,F. E. (Liverpool,Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G. (Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, H. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker,Col.W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES —Mr. Bridgeman and Mr. Evelyn Cecil.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Amitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonport
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J.H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F. L.(Lancs., Leigh
Bryce,Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton,Rt.Hn. SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm. H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats,SirT. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A.H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St. Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie,J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L. (Caithn'ss-s
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Waltson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, ErnestH. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St Pancras,E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A. Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J R (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, SirW.D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk. E.
Priestley, W. E.B.(Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Mon'mth
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrock, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E.(Manchester
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David Jones
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxeth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H. (SomersetE.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dunbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen
Wills, Arthur Walters

Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

And it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an additional Annual Grant, not exceeding one million pounds, to be distributed among Local Education Authorities, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to make further provision with respect to Education in England and Wales, and of the remuneration and Expenses of the Commissioners appointed under such Act."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Committee report Progress; to sit again to morrow.

ALKALI, &c., WORKS [STAMP DUTY.]

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the imposition of a Stamp Duty of Five pounds on Certificates of Registration in the case of Alkali Works and of Three pounds in the of any other Work in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to consolidate and amend the Alkali, &c., Works Regulation Acts, 1881 and 1892, and the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of salaries and remuneration and of expenses incurred in the execution of such Act."

Resolution agreed to.

ALKALI, &c., WORKS BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

IRISH EDUCATION (AFFLICTED CHILDREN) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Objection was taken.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said the Bill was intended to provide for the care of children of defective intelligence, and he hoped the House would read it a second time.

MR. T. M. HEALY said surely the Bill would not be objected to. It was the same one as the right hon. Member for South Dublin brought in last year.

Bill read a second time and committed for to-morrow.

RESIDENT MAGISTRATES (BELFAST) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) objected.

MR. McKILLOP (Armagh, S.) said both political parties in Belfast were in favour of the Bill.

MR. O'MARA: I object.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION BOARD (IRELAND).

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.) said he desired to move the Motion standing in his name, that a humble address be presented to His Majesty praying that the rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they were amended so as to give further facilities for the teaching of the Irish language and other subjects in Irish schools. The rules which were issued in April should have been presented to this House at least three weeks afterwards, but, although any person could purchase them in Dublin nearly three weeks ago, hon. Members in this House had not got them. That left them in a very awkward position in discussing the subject. He wished to call the attention of the Chief Secretary to the position which the Irish language occupied in the new rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, and to ask him to make such alterations as were thought essential in order to place that language on an equality with French, German, and Latin. He would first direct attention to the rule which stated that any two of the following languages might be taken—Greek, Latin, French, German or Irish. Having mentioned the number of languages which the student might take, the rule afterwards said there were three specially favoured languages, and they were Latin, French, and German. He contended that there should be no special favour shown to any one of the languages mentioned, and that the paragraph should either be taken out altogether or the Irish language added. The next rule to which he wished to draw attention was that which said that exhibitions and prizes could be obtained for the following courses, which were named, and that students must obtain honors in three subjects, two of which should be main subjects, which were also named. But there was something which struck practical educationists of to-day as being very peculiar, and as showing how unfitted were the present Intermediate board. Included in the main subjects for girls were geometry, trigonometry, mechanics, and chemistry. They in Ireland were becoming sufficiently prosaic to imagine that domestic economy, hygiene, and physiology were a good training for girls to enable them to take their part as wives and mothers; but the intermediate board practically said they should not take those subjects. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman would see the reasonableness of the request he made when he asked him to add domestic economy and hygiene as main subjects for girls. In Rule 61 it said that no Greek and German prizes would be given to students, but there were two subject specially selected for favour, and they were Greek and German. He claimed of the Chief Secretary, who was supposed to represent a Government which had tendencies to govern Ireland according to Irish ideas, that it would be a very good start at least to place Irish on an equality with German and Greek. He knew the right hon. Gentleman had expressed himself in sympathy with this movement. Whilst in opposition he could only give expression to that view as a sentiment, but he was now in a position to translate his ideas into acts, and he trusted the right hon. Gentleman would make a beginning to-night and grant the very modest request which he now made of him. He begged to move.

*MR. HAZLETON (Galway, N.) seconded the Motion. He desired to associate himself with the attitude his hon. friend had taken on the subject. It involved a point of real importance to Ireland, and one on which the public opinion of Ireland had been profoundly stirred, namely, the position of the Irish language in their schools, and he was sanguine that by bringing it forward now before these rules had been confirmed the time of the House would be saved and much discussion and irritation in Ireland avoided later on. Much as they would like to see Irish made compulsory in their schools, no question of compulsion was raised in this case. All that they asked was that Irish should not be penalised, but should be placed upon an equality with other languages. It was generally understood that so much had been conceded by the Board of Intermediate Education once and for all, but under these new rules the principle of equality had been unblushingly abandoned, and they were back once more to the old methods of oppression. The Board dare not remove the teaching of the Irish language altogether, but it had deliberately set itself to obstruct, discountenance, and discourage the teaching of Irish by placing it at a distinct disadvantage in comparison with other languages. He believed that some of the great English universities had entertained the idea of abandoning the serious study of Greek altogether, but the value of its knowledge to the small farmers in the West of Ireland, or to the shop assistants of intellectual Belfast must be obvious to anyone. He bitterly resented the anti-Irish policy of the Intermediate Board. In the junior, middle, and senior grades the Board laid it down as an absolute rule that if only one language other than English were learnt, that language must be either French, Latin, or German. The Tower of Babel was not built in Ireland, and there was no pressing necessity that it should be there. Dublin Castle with its forty odd boards had brought confusion enough upon them, but if the Intermediate Board thought that a knowledge of French, German, or Latin was essential for the Irish, he did not for one object. He was out of their clutches, anyhow. But he did object, and would object, to this, or any other board, attempting to strike a cowardly blow at the national language in the sacred name of education. Here was he, the representative of a constituency, three-fourths of which was Irish-speaking, and the children of his constituents were barred and banned under this rule from learning their own language unless they took, besides English, the study of French, Latin or German. In Russia that was what would be called tyranny, but in Ireland it was called education. This rule was not a survival of the Penal Code, but was made last month in Dublin, and approved and countersigned John Campbell, Earl of Aberdeen. He was not blaming the Lord-Lieutenant, or the Irish Administration. He knew they had absolutely nothing to do with this matter, but the House had it in their power to-night to remove this grievance. There was something unutterably contemptible and mean about this latest attempt to strangle the Irish language in the secondary schools. It was intolerable that a great branch of education should be at the mercy of a Board of partisans such as these gentlemen had proved themselves to be. He knew there were members on the Board in whom the Irish had confidence. The Archbishop of Dublin was a member of the Board, but he was also a member of the National Board of Education, and he was driven from it. Was he and others to be driven from this Board also? He sincerely hoped not. But he was sure that the last thing the Chief Secretary himself would desire would be the creation of anything in the nature of an educational crisis over the administration of the intermediate system to increase still further the difficulties of his present position. Nationalist Members would sincerely deplore any such eventuality, but they had a poor opinion of the right hon. Gentleman's advisers, who, on a subject about which a great mass of the Irish people felt so warmly, should have treated the Irish language in the way they had. It was the hall mark of their separate and distinct nationality, and in that fact was perhaps to be found the explanation of why it had been so much persecuted by those who would like to see Ireland reduced to the level of a glorified English shire. This provocation of public opinion in Ireland only served to strengthen their determination to stand by their own language. What Russia could not do in Poland, what Austria could not do in Hungary, England, even were it to try, would never succeed in doing in Ireland, and he therefore trusted the House to-night would amend these rules and show these anti-Irish gentlemen upon the Intermediate Board that the day when they could subordinate the duties of their office to their political venom was past and gone.

Motion made, and Question proposed—"That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular:—Rule 34 (B), page 20, line 4, to leave out the words 'If only one language is taken it must be either Latin, French, or German.'"—(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

MR. BRYCE said it was only fair to the Intermediate Education Board that he should read a communication which they had addressed to him in reply to a request from him as to what they had to say with regard to these proposals. The Board said that it was impossible to state in detail the many reasons which weighed with them in making the Rules. But, speaking generally, the Board were of opinion that for intermediate students the study of French or German was of greater educational value and more likely to be of practical use in after life than was that of Irish, and they pointed out that were Rule 34 altered, as suggested, a student even in the senior grade could pass the examination generally by taking up (1) English; (2) Irish; (3) Arithmetic; (4) Experimental Science; (5) Shorthand; (6) Book-keeping. The Board considered that this course of study would not amount to an intermediate education. The present Rules were, in the opinion of the Board, to a slight extent more favourable to Irish than those of former years. He would only add a few words in regard to this matter. The hon. Member who moved this Resolution was mistaken in supposing that he had any authority over the Intermediate Education Board. It was an independent Board, and he had no power to suggest what rules it should make. The Board made the rules for itself and stood apart from the Irish Government. This was a question for the House, because the Government could not interfere with the Board. He was willing, however, to give his own view of the subject. He felt that the considerations of which hon. Members had spoken entered into the present case. On the whole he thought it a pity that the Board had not included Irish, and if a division were called he would be inclined to vote with the hon. Member. There was no reason why Irish should not take its place among other languages; and, as to its practical value in life, certainly no language could give the student more severe mental training; it was a language far more difficult to learn than French or German, and if young people of from fourteen to eighteen years of age were subjected to the examination, it would be well calculated to test their abilities, provided it was a test of something more than colloquial knowledge, or else a distinct advantage would be given to those who came from Irish-speaking districts, and there would be little educational result. As much freedom as possible should be given, and a free choice should be allowed among Greek, Latin, German, French, Irish, Italian, and Spanish.

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL (Dublin University) said the House had been made acquainted with a rather interesting development arising out of a very innocent Motion. Speaking for himself, he was always glad when he found himself able to sympathise in the objects of hon. Members for Ireland below the gangway. But there was certainly an object-lesson in what had occurred to-night. There was an Intermediate Education Board in Ireland consisting of all political persuasions and political beliefs, men of the highest position in the educational world. He had never before heard in this House any suggestion that this Intermediate Education Board was animated by anything except the desire to promote intermediate education in Ireland; but the hon. Member who proposed this resolution said these rules were drawn up in a spirit of political venom. That charge had been more or less adopted by the right hon. Gentleman.

Mr. BRYCE: No.

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL: Certainly sanctioned by the attitude taken up by the right hon. Gentleman.

Mr. BRYCE said he had not said a single word to associate himself in any way with it.

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL said all he could say was that he had heard no disclaimer from the right hon. Gentleman. On the contrary, he had sanctioned by his language and by his attitude the resolution that had been proposed, the recommendation for which was that the so-called restriction upon the teaching of Irish was due to political venom.

Mr. BRYCE said the right hon. Gentleman was entirely inaccurate in attributing any such opinion to him, and after his express statement, his right hon. friend was not entitled to repeat the assertion. [Cries of "Withdraw."]

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL said he should not be put off in the least by these interruptions. All that he could say was that he had heard no disclaimer from the right hon. Gentleman opposite, but he quite accepted his view that this Intermediate Education Board were not open to the suggestion that they were animated by political venom. But what he would ask hon. Members to bear in mind was that the boy who acquired a knowledge of the Irish language in the intermediate schools of Ireland would not be able to convert that knowledge into cash. After all, why they wanted to equip these boys in the intermediate schools was that they should be able to compete in life with Englishmen, Scotchmen, and foreigners in commerce and other pursuits. He put it to hon. Members for Ireland whether they thought they were acting wisely and in the interests of these boys. If he thought they were right he would support them all he could, for he would like to see the Irish youth holding their own all over the world. But it was because he thought they would be handicapped in the competition if they were compelled or even allowed to devote time to the study of Irish which they might otherwise devote to German or French, which in commercial life they might be able to turn into capital, that he opposed this Motion. He did not profess to know what the commercial value of Irish was, but he believed it had none. Whether that were so or not, the Intermediate Board as present constituted in Ireland had upon it leading representatives of educational opinion in Ireland of all sections and creeds, and they in their united wisdom had come to the conclusion that it was not desirable to give the prominence to Irish language which some hon. Gentlemen desired to see. He could not understand why the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary had not a word to say in defence of the Intermediate Board, more particularly as the attack upon them was that they were animated by political venom. He entirely repudiated that. The members of the Board, whether they were right or wrong, were animated by the desire to do what was best in the interests of intermediate education, and, speaking for himself, he believed the Board came to a wise conclusion in preferring the study of French, German, or Latin to that of Irish, which, however interesting from a national point of view, could never be turned into cash. Most of the Members of the Board were unknown to him personally, but they had been for many years in their present position, and this was very laborious work for which no emoluments were given. It was very ungracious that it should be left to the Opposition to have to defend the Board at least from being actuated by any other motives than those of the best interests of education.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) said the right hon. Gentleman had based his whole objection to the proposal to put Irish in its proper position on the ground that it had no cash basis. Nationalist Members did not take that view. They regarded it as a national matter, but he would like to inform the right hon. Gentleman that in Ireland Irish had a cash value. They could not take up the organ of the Gælic language without seeing advertisements for speakers of the Irish language. He knew a case of a young man in Kerry who, because of his knowledge of the Irish language, instead of receiving only 10s. a week on the railway line now got £100 a year for teaching the Irish language, and he knew of instances all over the country in which the knowledge of the Irish language had actually a cash value. But his colleagues did not act upon that ground, but upon an educational ground, and he was sure that anyone who had acquaintance with the subject would know that if they only interested boys and girls in the knowledge of the language and got them to understand it, it would lead to the acquisition of other languages. Any boy or girl who had mastered the Irish language was undoubtedly more capable of acquiring a knowledge of French or of German. He was not at all desirous of removing French or German from the curriculum. All that they said was that Irish should be put on an equality.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said the right hon. Gentleman on the front Opposition Bench had introduced a certain measure of what he might perhaps consider to be humour into this matter, but what they wanted the House to understand was that this matter involved something which the Irish people held very dear. They all hoped and believed that they had now arrived at a time in the relations between England and Ireland when the English people were anxious to show that the attempt to suppress the distinct nationality of Ireland was to be relinquished. In no possible way had the Irish national sentiment in the past been more attacked than in the efforts made to suppress the Irish language. Sometimes they were asked by their friends from Wales how it was that the national language in Wales was so widespread and in general use, whilst in Ireland the national language had been waning for many long years. The reply to their Welsh friends was that in Wales no such attempts were made to strangle the national sentiment of the people for their language as was done in Ireland. The use of Irish in Ireland had been made positively a crime in days gone by. People were taught that it was a dangerous thing in the eyes of the Government to use the native tongue, and in that way Irish largely disappeared, and what they now asked was that in the better spirit which prevailed in this country towards Ireland the ancient tongue of the land should be encouraged to be spoken by the people if the people so desired. No doubt, if the Irish people thought only of the cash value of things the country would probably be much more prosperous than it was at the present time; but, thank Heaven, they did not measure things in the past or to-day by their cash value. They had regard for sentiment, for honour, for the traditions of their country, and it was not that they desired to deprive their young people of the opportunity which the knowledge of French or German might give them, but that they were anxious that their pride and self-respect should not be offended in their youth, because the one tongue in the world which was practically forbidden them was the tongue of their forefathers. They were not seeking to impose as a necessity the cultivation of the Irish language by their people, but they were simply asking that it should be given the same privilege as any other language, and he appealed to hon. Gentlemen who were anxious to cultivate the national sentiment of the Irish people to give to them what they passionately longed for.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.) said that the right hon. Member for the University of Dublin denied that the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland were animated by political bias. They might or might not be so animated, but they were undoubtedly animated by a desire to Anglicise Ireland. They were animated by ideas which were entirely foreign to the spirit which animated the young generation of Irishmen. They were made up very largely of a kind of individual who was neither a good Englishman nor a good Irishman, and if the House wished to study that type of individual some very interesting specimens would be found on the Opposition Benches above the gangway.

MR. BRYCE said he should perhaps tell the House what the Intermediate Board said of this rule, because it was not fair to say they were indifferent to the importance of the subject. The Board, while they were always willing to give prominence to domestic economy and hygiene in the education of girls, felt that these subjects were not suitable for the special kind of examination prescribed for "main subjects." He might perhaps take this opportunity of saying that he had some reason to complain of the right hon. Gentleman opposite for having endeavoured to tax him with a charge for which he would find absolutely no ground whatever. Nothing was further from his mind than to lower the services which the Board rendered in the public interest, and although some criticisms were made upon the Board by the proposer of the Resolution he regarded them as being in the nature of the flowers of rhetoric, which bloomed naturally in an Irish soil. He should have thought that they would have been regarded in the same manner by the right hon. Gentleman who had much more knowledge of them than he had.

Mr. DILLON said he could not imagine anything more preposterous than the programme offered to girls in preference to domestic economy, hygiene, and physiology. It was Mr. Plunkett's department that had forced this programme upon the Intermediate Board, and had saddled upon Ireland a set of laboratories in which girls were to study practical chemistry. He hoped the House would have the good sense to substitute the course suggested.

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL said he had not the least objection to domestic economy or hygiene, but he did suggest that it was a very inconvenient way, by a hurried debate in this House, to introduce radical changes in a programme that had been selected presumably after careful consideration by a competent tribunal. Of course if the Board were of the character suggested by some hon. Members he could have understood this House being asked at twelve o'clock at night to overrule the well-considered judgment of the Board; but he confessed he did not understand the faint praise with which the right hon. Gentleman had endeavoured to sustain and defend the action of this Board and the way he had completely thrown them over. The right hon. Gentleman had not given them any reason whatever in defence of his action. He knew their conduct was to be impugned to-night, but he had not taken the trouble to read their defence.

Mr. BRYCE said he had read every word he had received from the Board.

*Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL said all he had to say was that if the action of a district council were involved they would have had a much more elaborate defence, and it seemed most extraordinary that a Board on which were some of the most eminent Irishmen of all religious denominations, who had given their services unpaid for this work, should have been thus treated. It would be a poor consolation to the Board that the right hon. Gentleman, so far from saying one word in their defence or in justification of their policy, had got up and said he would content himself by reading the communication he had received from them, at the same time expressing himself in entire sympathy with a Motion made in a hostile spirit. While he had no objection to teaching Irish girls domestic economy and hygiene, he would suggest that it was rather a curious way of legislating at this hour of the night.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular :—

Rule 34 (b), page 20, line 4, leave out "If only one language is taken it must be either Latin, French, or German."

Resolved, That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular :—

Rule 43 (iv.), add "Domestic Economy, Physiology, and Hygiene" as "main subjects" for girls.

Resolved, That the Rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, for the year 1906–7 be not sanctioned by Parliament till they are amended in the following particular :—

Rule 61, page 26, line 1, at beginning, insert, "In Irish."—(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at a quarter after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 22nd May, 1906.

The Earl of Aylesford took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Great Eastern Railway Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, without Amendment.

Manchester Churches Bill [H.L.]. Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [H.L.]. North East Lincolnshire Water Bill. Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]. Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [H.L.]. Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Electric Supply) Bill [H.L.] Reported, with Amendments.

Crellin'sPatents Bill [H.L.]. Reported, without Amendment.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill. The King's consent signified; and and Bill reported, with Amendments.

London and North Western Railway Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Ascot District Gas Bill; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 97.)

Marriages Provisional Order Bill. Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next (The Earl of Beauchamp). (No. 98.)

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Friday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Statement of the moneys expended on education under Part I. and Part II. respectively of the Education Act, 1902, by each local education authority for the year 1904–1905, and, so far as can be estimated, for the year 1905–1906, showing the amount provided from Exchequer grants and from local rates respectively, and in each case the amount of the rate in the £.

Statement as to the age at which compulsory education begins in certain foreign countries.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Customs Union Convention provisionally agreed to by the representatives of the South African Colonies at a Conference held at Pietermaritzburg in March, 1906.

CEYLON.

Correspondence relating to an agreement for lease of pearl fisheries on the coast of Ceylon.

EMIGRATION.

Report on the Emigrants Information Office for the year ended December 31st, 1905.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX).

Order made by the council of the county of Middlesex reconstituting the parliamentary polling districts in the county. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT.

University Court Ordinance No. XV. Edinburgh No. 6). Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 96.)

TRADE REPORTS: I. ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3595. Portugal (Azores).

No. 3594. Greece (Cephalonia and Zante).

No. 3595. Italy (Sicily).

No. 3596. Netherlands (Rotterdam).

II. MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 650. Arms Industry of Liége.

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part I. General Report.

LONDON TRAFFIC.

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire and report as to the means of locomotion and traffic in London. Vol. IV. Appendices with Index.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS (REGISTRATION OF PATENT AGENTS) BILL [H.L.].

Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next.

ELECTIONS (MEETINGS IN SCHOOLROOMS) BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments. The Report of the Amendments to be received on Friday next; and Bill be printed as amended. (No. 99.)

POLICE (SUPERANNUATION) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Friday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 100.)

CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL [H.L.].

Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*LORD **ALVERSTONE**: My Lords, before the House resolves itself into Committee, I think we are entitled to ask from the Lord Chancellor some further explanation of the intentions of His Majesty's Government in regard to one portion of this Bill. I apologise to your Lordships for not having been present on the occasion of the Second Reading, when I should have made some of the observations that I feel it my duty to make this afternoon, but I was absent on circuit in South Wales, and it was not possible for me to attend. I am quite sure that, whatever may be the view of your Lordships on this matter, you will feel that there are certain considerations that ought to be borne in mind before we undertake the Committee stage of the Bill.

I am in no way opposed to the constitution of a Court of Criminal Appeal within certain limits, and, to clear the air, I will state at once that which I think would be a desirable amendment of the law in connection with criminal appeals. There should, I think, be a Court of Criminal Appeal, to which persons convicted should have free access upon the question whether there was any evidence to go to the jury, upon all questions of misdirection, upon all questions of non-reception or misreception of evidence, upon any question of law raised at the trial, and upon any question as to the illegality of the sentence. I postpone for the moment the question of appeal with regard to the severity of the sentence, because that raises different and subordinate considerations. Whether or not proceedings in error should be abolished is a matter not of great importance. I should have no objection to a Court of Appeal dealing with those. I pass it by only with this word of notice, in order that there may not be any idea that I wish in any way to fetter the jurisdiction of the new Court of Criminal Appeal, if established, in matters of law.

I now come to that part of the case on which I shall venture to detain your Lordships for a few minutes, because it is a matter of the very greatest importance and one which affects the administration of the criminal law. I notice that my noble and learned friend Lord James of Hereford, in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill, said, and said truly, that judges are not reformers. My Lords, they are not, because when one is honoured with judicial office one considers that as far as possible one should keep clear from anything approaching to Party politics, and I should not intervene in this afternoon's proceedings if the question we had to discuss was one which involved any matter of Party politics I am quite sure that my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack will agree that the administration of the criminal law should be kept free from any question of Party politics.

I speak, of course, solely for myself. His Majesty's judges have no representation in this House, and it is a mere accident that I have the privilege of a seat here. I will indicate to your Lordships how far in some opinions of mine I am supported by my brethren, but I alone am responsible for what I say, and it must not be thought that His Majesty's judges desire in any way to interfere in that which may be thought to be the policy of the Government. Having said this, I wish to make one further observation, and I make it in consequence, partly, of what was said during the Second Reading discussion on this Bill. Whatever may be the decision of your Lordships' House and the other House of Parliament on any question of reform in the administration of the law, be it in civil or criminal procedure, I can assure the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack that His Majesty's judges, whatever their experience may be, be it little or be it great, will place it most unreservedly at the disposal of any Government who may introduce such a measure in order to make the measure workable and effective.

The main objection which I raise to this Bill is that it contemplates a right of appeal on fact in all cases of conviction on indictment. That is a momentous change, and it will, in my judgment, so defeat the object of those who promote this Bill that it is absolutely necessary that I should make my meaning perfectly clear. I do not intend to refer to previous Bills. I do not intend to quote the opinions of others, however eminent. I am aware that it will be thought that I am thereby to a large extent cutting away from myself a strong argument which might be used in support of my position, but I feel that when a measure of this character has been introduced on the authority of His Majesty's Government, when it has been moved in this House by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, I ought to consider it on its own merits. I ought to consider how far its proposals commend themselves to my experience, and I ought not to shelter myself, or support my arguments by reference to any preconceived opinions of others who have studied this subject before.

The main argument used in support of this Bill by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, in moving it, was the analogy of appeals in civil cases. It was suggested, quite truly, that in certain cases in the High Court, however small might be the matter at stake, and even if it be only a question of change of venue and of procedure, there is an appeal to the Court of Appeal and ultimately to your Lordships' House. I do not dispute that. In ninety-nine out of every hundred cases in which amounts under £100 are involved, there is, however, no appeal on the question of fact. But I am not going to base my argument on any comparison for the moment. I say, and I say it advisedly, that the whole system of our criminal procedure is contrary to any such proposal as is made in this Bill for an appeal on fact, and I hope to satisfy your Lordships that, instead of being an advantage to innocent persons, it would create a danger for them which no Court of Appeal could protect them against.

I would remind your Lordships what the essential difference is. In civil disputes you have two parties. One party does not know the details of the evidence to be given by the other party, sometimes not even the substance. That is entirely absent from the administration of criminal law. There are no two parties. It is the duty of the prosecution to make out their case to the satisfaction of the tribunal on fact, and that distinction affects the whole of our criminal procedure. Not only is there preliminary inquiry before magistrates and grand juries, but, if the prosecution propose to call any fresh evidence, they have to give notice to the person charged of what that fresh evidence is; and it is only in the very rare instance of some point being developed in the course of the trial by the defence that any evidence is heard of which intimation has not previously been given. So that in a criminal trial the accused goes into court with full knowledge of the details of the evidence to be given against him.

What is the chief objection to the proposed change? It is my distinct conviction that such a procedure as is contemplated will undermine altogether the responsibility of juries, and will make them feel that it is not with them that the decision on the facts is ultimately to rest. They will feel that they have got behind them this Court of Appeal, so that they will be able to say, "We think the man is guilty. We are not quite sure on the evidence, but if we are wrong the Court of Appeal will set us right." That is a direct and serious danger as regards an innocent man. What is it that we now say—I have to say it a great many times a year—to juries when we are dealing with these matters? We have to tell them that theirs is the responsibility on matters of fact. We have to tell them that there is, in this respect, no appeal from their decision, and we have to tell them that unless they are as satisfied as they would be in any important event of their lives they ought to give the accused the benefit of the doubt and return a verdict of acquittal. The whole of that observation would be cut away from us.

I know, and there are many here who know perfectly well, what has been the effect on men of far greater learning and far greater experience than jurymen of the knowledge that there is an appeal. It has at times led judges of the highest position short of your Lordships' House to approach their duties without the same feeling of responsibility as they otherwise would, and it has in times past been pointed out that cases have been allowed to be conducted rather slackly because they were going to the Court of Appeal. If this Bill becomes law in its present shape, I am satisfied that juries will know and feel that the responsibility is no longer theirs, and that it will make them less careful how they deal with questions of innocence and guilt. At present juries do err; they err on the side of acquittal. There are many cases in which people are acquitted by juries who, if justice was done, ought to have been convicted. The tendency, if this Bill passes, must be for juries to feel their responsibility much less.

Will your Lordships for a moment consider what is the danger to an innocent man? What is the position when the verdict goes before the tribunal of three or five judges? Are your Lordships to be satisfied with the standard which now prevails in every case where the jury have decided the question of fact? The only circumstances under which the Court of Appeal may now order a new trial when there has been a verdict of a jury, is when the court have come to the conclusion that the verdict was one which no jury could reasonably have found. In criminal cases not only will there have been previous investigation, but in ninety-nine cases out of 100 no judge will allow a case to go to a jury unless there is substantial evidence against the prisoner. What will be the position of the Court of Appeal? They will have before them the verdict of a jury who have seen the witnesses; they will have before them the verdict of a jury presumably on a proper direction, because if there is misdirection there ought to be an appeal.

But I ask your Lordships to consider the peril of an innocent man who may have had a verdict of guilty against him, the jury feeling less responsibility in their verdict. When he gets to the Court of Appeal it will be urged that that verdict was given in sight of the witnesses and under the proper direction of the judge. If that were the only difficulty, if I were to stop at this objection, I would submit that this Bill, giving a general right of appeal, creates a danger which threatens those we are most anxious to protect—the innocent. What is this appeal? The appeal which is now suggested does not exist in any other tribunal, civil or criminal. It is absolutely new. The Memorandum on the Bill points out what is perfectly true, that there is an appeal to quarter sessions in cases of summary conviction; but that appeal to quarter sessions is a rehearing. The witnesses are recalled, and the court has the same opportunity of judging of their demeanour as the court of first instance had. This Court of Appeal is to have no such opportunity which, in my humble judgement, is absolutely necessary in order to come to a correct conclusion as to whether or not people are telling the truth in a criminal matter.

On what evidence is the Court of Appeal to act? Is it to act on the depositions? They are admirable as a *prima facie* case, but over and over again most important points in favour of the prisoner or of the case for the prosecution are not brought out until the witness is examined and cross-examined at the trial. The judge's note, though it may be quite sufficient and well adapted to enable the judge to direct the jury who have heard the witnesses, would be wholly insufficient for the Court of Appeal. Are they, then, to act on a shorthand note? I enter my emphatic protest against the guilt or innocence of any man being determined by a tribunal which has not the witnesses before it. It is suggested in this Bill that some report is to be given by the judge who has presided at the trial. How is that to work? How are reports to be obtained after quarter sessions have separated? That is a very important matter. When it falls to my painful lot to preside at a trial for murder the report I send to the Home Office is prepared with care, and the note I take is one which will be of some assistance to the court; but the system of appeal contemplated by this Bill, of remitting to three or five judges the determination of questions of fact, is a complete innovation. It is tried for the first time in criminal law, and in my judgment it is fraught with the greatest danger to innocent persons. It astounds me that it should be thought that a Court of Appeal in a criminal case should hear the case in the absence of the prisoner. I do not know why his presence is to be unnecessary.

Further, it is generally recognised, and in support of this statement I might cite passages from the Report of the important Commission presided over in 1879 by Lord Blackburn, that if there is to be an appeal in criminal cases there must be a new trial, and it is because this is an innovation in, and a fundamental departure from, our criminal procedure that I think it right to enter my protest against it. I do not for a moment refer to the probable number of appeals. If this Bill were passed in its present shape there would be many hundreds of appeals, but I am not going to argue the question from that point of view. If it is right, it ought to be passed whatever may be the burden put on the country. But, as this Bill is framed, it gives an appeal to the rich which the poor cannot avail themselves of. This is no claptrap argument; it is the fact. If these appeals are to be of any use, there must be counsel, and solicitors, and all the documents and other matter must be put properly before the Court. Such a costly appeal may be for the benefit of the company promoter with any amount of money who has been charged with fraudulent conspiracy, but it will not benefit the poor man in the event of there having been some miscarriage of justice. The procedure is wholly insufficient to meet that difficulty. Moreover, the difficulties in the way of the practical working of this scheme are almost insuperable as the Bill is now framed.

I feel my responsibility so gravely in this matter that I do not hesitate to ask your Lordships to hear me on another part of the question. If I am right in saying that there has not been thought in past times necessity for this reform, has anything happened in the last few years to call for this particular amendment of the law? As was to be expected, reference was made in the course of the debate on the Second Reading of this Bill to the Beck case. I wish noble Lords who may have to deal with this matter would do what I have had to do—namely, very carefully study the Beck Report. I assert without fear of contradiction that an appeal on fact would have been no good whatever in the Beck case. No Court of Appeal on a question of fact could possibly have reversed that finding. The miscarriage of justice in the Beck case was due to a misdirection on the part of the learned judge, a misdirection so grave that now that attention has been called to it one wonders how it ever could have taken place. But it was a misdirection which would have been set right by the Court of Appeal on the matter of law. Therefore, I say the only case that has been mentioned in order to suggest the pressing necessity for appeals on matters of fact is one which would have been met by an appeal on matters of law, by an appeal on the question of misdirection, and which in no way calls for this provision for appeal on questions of fact. It was from that point of view that I had the honour of assisting my noble and learned friend, Lord Halsbury, in preparing the Bill which passed your Lordships' House last year, to increase the facilities for appeals in matters of law.

There is a matter which is not sufficiently recognised in this House or in the country, to which attention has recently been called by a very great lawyer, and which I have for a long time determined that I would bring to the notice of your Lordships when I had an opportunity. I refer to the enormously improved condition of the innocent man, due to the fact that he can now give evidence on his own behalf. For many years I pressed that measure on the House of Commons. My noble and learned friend, Lord Halsbury—it will for ever live to his honour—took the matter up, and the present Act was passed under his auspices. I have watched the practice of that Act most carefully, inasmuch as it bears directly on the point I am endeavouring to argue, the necessity for an appeal on fact, and I have found that in many cases a verdict of acquittal has been given on the evidence of the accused person alone; and I go so far as to say that if an accused man will tell the truth at the early stages before the magistrate, so as to give time for inquiry, his ultimate conviction, if he is innocent, is almost an impossibility. I will not say an impossibility, because I do not wish to exaggerate. I have never pretended in all my advocacy of the Prisoners Evidence Act that it was any protection to the guilty. Your Lordships do not wish to pass an Act of Parliament for the protection of the guilty, but this particular Act has been a great protection to the innocent.

I will give your Lordships three of many cases. I tried at Ipswich an indictment against three men for grievously assaulting a poor sailor. On the evidence of the prosecution, all three assaulted him, and he did not know which one injured him. From the evidence of the prosecution there was not the slightest possibility of distinguishing between the three men. One of them, an ex-soldier, asked to give evidence. He gave his evidence extremely well. He admitted he had been there. He said he joined the other two men, but after a few minutes became ashamed of himself and asked the other men to desist, but as they would not he left them. That may or may not have been the true fact, but my point is that the defence could not possibly have been put before the jury except by the prisoner being allowed to give evidence.

To give more recent cases I will quote two that I tried at the Cardiff Assizes two weeks ago. One was a charge of murder and the other of manslaughter. The former case was one in which a wife had been killed in a particularly brutal manner. Evidence of the circumstances under which the injury was done to the deceased woman was given by the prisoner himself in a way which commended it to the jury, who reduced the crime from murder to manslaughter; and nothing but the prisoner's evidence could have done it. At the same Assizes a man was indicted for manslaughter, for stabbing another man in the eye with an umbrella, which led to his death. Upon the evidence of those who saw the affray and of the doctors called for the prosecution no other verdict but one of manslaughter could be given. That man went into the witness box and described that the deceased, who was a friend of his, was drunk at the time and that in a slight quarrel he stumbled on to the point of the umbrella, which went through his eye to his brain and killed him. That man was acquitted, and in my opinion rightly acquitted, by the jury. It may be contended that cases of acquittal such as this may be wrong, but that does not touch my point; they demonstrate the absolute necessity of allowing the accused to give evidence.

I must now say a word or two upon the other part of the Bill to which I take exception; but I am free to admit that this is not so much a matter of principle with me as is the topic on which I have addressed your Lordships. I refer to the tribunal for the consideration of the severity of sentences. I am aware that in the year 1892 a resolution was passed by the then judges of the Queen's Bench in favour of there being such a tribunal. The circumstances were very peculiar. At that time there were certain excessive sentences which very much troubled the Home Secretary. That is all that need be said about them; but it must be remembered that every one who has had the courage to propose this has always given a free hand to the tribunal as to how the sentence was to be dealt with, and I think it would be a lamentable thing that men should be allowed to appeal on the ground of severity of sentence without the possibility of the Court of Appeal increasing the sentence. Again the position has been changed. The judges of the High Court now work upon a memorandum to which we are all agreed, and during the last eight or ten years no one can say that High Court sentences have erred on the side of severity. I have a very strong feeling that, if there is to be reduction in the severity of a sentence, which is, after all, part of the prerogative of mercy, it would be better that it should be brought about by an administrative act of the Home Secretary than by a Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal can only deal with the case. The Home Secretary may properly have on such a matter put before him statements having no direct relevance to the particular case. But that is not all. I would take your Lordships' minds back to what happens in a court of assize. On a person being convicted the judge asks the police to give the fullest information with respect to the prisoner, his antecedents, and his recent mode of life. I believe it to be quite impossible to reproduce in a Court of Appeal what I may call the atmosphere of that Court. If it should be thought desirable, let the Home Secretary have increased facilities for consulting the judges of the King's Bench Division. I shall not say one single word against that, but I do seriously say that this is a matter which scarcely merits or renders necessary the proposed amendment of the law.

The case must be made out for these changes. I am sure that my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack will not suggest that your Lordships ought to make this great change in the law merely on his *ipse dixit* or on the statement that it is the Bill of His Majesty's Government. It is only a compliment to my noble and learned friend to say that his lot has fallen in pleasanter places than in the criminal courts, but I support myself by what I know to be the opinion of my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury, than whom there is no one in this country whose opinion on a matter of criminal law is entitled to greater weight. The views I have expressed are entertained by all my brethren in the King's Bench, who daily throughout the whole course of the year administer the criminal law, and your Lordships know from the public Press that they are the views largely shared by recorders, who have a very large share in the administration of the criminal law and are very learned and experienced men, and also by chairmen of quarter sessions, many of whom have had long practical experience of this question.

The certainty, the expedition, and, above all, the justice of our criminal procedure has been the admiration of jurists of all civilised nations; but the bedrock and foundation of that system is the recognised duty of the prosecutor to make out his case upon the facts so as to satisfy a jury, and that from the verdict of that jury there is no appeal on questions of fact. This Bill undermines that principle. In my opinion it will lead juries in cases of doubt to shelter themselves under the authority of a Court of Appeal, and that will involve the greatest danger to an innocent person which no safeguard in the Bill can diminish. I feel as certain as I stand here that it will create a very great danger to him, against which no Court of Appeal that does not have the witnesses before it can protect him. I have endeavoured, feebly I know, but still from conviction, to put this view before your Lordships. I speak with some experience of the administration of the criminal law and with six years experience as Chief Justice, and I say make this change if you will, but make it only with full knowledge of the issues involved; and I hope it will not be made unless the arguments I have put before your Lordships are answered to your Lordships' satisfaction.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I should like to say a few words at this stage of the Bill, as circumstances prevented my taking any part in the discussion on the Second Reading. It is impossible for any of your Lordships not to be profoundly impressed by the weighty statement that has just been made by my noble and learned friend the Lord Chief Justice of England. My noble and learned friend speaks with the weight of his high character, his wide experience, and his close connection with the administration of the criminal law. It is impossible to overstate the importance, the difficulty, and the complexity of this Bill. It practically seeks to work an absolute revolution in the whole criminal law.

I have every sympathy with the good intentions of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack. I am sure that he has applied himself most earnestly to working out this reform in the best possible way, but anyone who, speaking generally, is in favour of the principle of a Court of Criminal Appeal will, when he comes to put his ideas into a Bill, discover the vast difficulties and complexities that surround an apparently simple task. Juries in returning their verdicts are actuated by a deep sense of their responsibilities. It is perfectly obvious that that is the great central fact to be borne in mind, and anything that strengthens that feeling is good, whilst anything that weakens it is bad and detrimental to the administration of justice.

This Bill, in my opinion, is both excessive and incomplete. It gives without restriction an appeal in every criminal case where the conviction is one on indictment. I say at once, with all deference to the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, that that is impossible. It would be impossible to administer the criminal law with such a gigantic change as that. I am told that in the year 1904 there were over 9,000 such prisoners convicted. Why should they not all appeal? Would not any prisoner who was not a fool at once appeal? This Bill does not even say that a man who has pleaded guilty should not appeal. Such a man might say, "I will appeal and try my chance." That is a very grave and serious matter. The first great blot I find on the Bill is that which was commented on by my noble and learned friend—namely, the essential weakening of the responsibilities of juries if they know that any errors they commit can be at once reviewed by the Court of Appeal on the service of a notice by the prisoner.

I agree with what my noble and learned friend said as to the false analogy on which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack largely rested his case—the analogy of civil cases. No analogy that I can see could justify the wide extent to which that argument was pressed. If a jury in a civil case gives what is known as a clean verdict on sufficient evidence, without the judge expressing dissatisfaction, no one would be so silly as to dream of thinking that an appeal could lie. There is another circumstance to destroy the analogy. In civil cases a person appeals subject to the peril of costs. That is an immense and obvious check. But under this Bill a prisoner, without consideration of, and it may be against, advice, can appeal by the mere service of a notice. Then I have to point out that this is obviously a rich man's Bill. Any one who has money will always appeal, and there is no vestige of check. He would not have to run the risk of paying the costs as in a civil case.

Again, under no circumstances can the sentence be increased. I am sure the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack feels as much as any one that the Bill in its present shape cannot be passed without limitations. That is manifest from the discussion which has taken place. The unanimous opinion in the Press is that without a limitation of some sort the Bill is unworkable and must break down. The question is, what check should be applied, whether it should be necessary to obtain leave to appeal. This is a matter well worthy of consideration. The Bill gives power to the Court of Appeal, without a retrial, without hearing or seeing the witnesses, without, it may be, hearing or seeing the prisoner, to recast the sentence. It does not mention from beginning to end that there should be a power of granting a new trial. New trials have been suggested as a possible direction to be given by the Court of Criminal Appeal. I admit that it must be after very great consideration. If i should be thought right to have new trials it is obvious that then the question has to be considered how many new trials are to be allowed, and how it is to apply in a murder case.

Lord Ashbourne.

I see great difficulty in going so far as the Bill goes in regard to the revision of sentences. It is very easy to say that sentences are unequal and unevenly distributed and that there should be some uniformity; but can anyone who has listened to the speech of my noble and learned friend the Lord Chief Justice conceive anything better than the action which has apparently been taken by the judges themselves in bringing about interchange of opinion so as to arrive at common views as to the way in which certain crimes should be punished? I see difficulty in handing over to any Court of Criminal Appeal the power of measuring sentences. The judge who passes sentence sees the prisoner; he sees his demeanour through the trial; he sees and hears all the witnesses, and he has every opportunity of examining into the guilt or innocence of the accused. Assuming his capacity, which we must assume, a judge of the High Court is the best conceivable person to decide what would be a proper sentence for a particular crime in all the circumstances of the case.

What is the necessity for interfering with the present system and embarking on this great departure? At present any prisoner who is dissatisfied can appeal to the Home Secretary, and I understand that many thousands of cases go to the Home Secretary. It may be necessary that the jurisdiction of the Home Secretary should be strengthened, and that he should be assisted by more legal aid; and it is obvious from what the Lord Chief Justice said that there would be no reluctance on his part to seeing very adequate legal assistance given to the Home Secretary. Although it may be wise to set up a Court of Criminal Appeal, and to increase the facilities for the hearing of appeals on questions of law, I see great difficulty in going as far as the Bill goes in regard to the revision of sentences. Having regard to the attention which the Bill has attracted, and to the vast changes which it proposes, would it not be prudent, if not to postpone the Committee Stage, at least to enter upon it only *pro forma*.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, I am sure your Lordships have listened with great interest to the weighty arguments of the two noble and learned Lords who have addressed you this evening, but I think their speeches must have left you in some doubt as to the course that is intended to be pursued. I was under the impression, after listening to the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chief Justice, that he was opposing the Motion that the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill. I now gather from Lord Ashbourne the course he will take when the Bill gets into Committee. I think it would be better that we should have some intimation from my noble and learned friends as to the course which it is intended to pursue. I earnestly hope your Lordships will allow the Bill to go into Committee. We have had practically a Second Reading debate, though I fully appreciate that my noble and learned friends were prevented by their judicial duties from being present at the previous stage. But my noble and learned friends have both spoken as if the Bill now before the House were the only Bill that could emerge from Committee.

I am not committed to the Bill as it stands. I admit that there is a great deal of force in what has been said by my noble and learned friends, but while they admit that some Court of Criminal Appeal is necessary, even if only in the direction of further powers being given to the Home Office, they are resisting the only possible means of fashioning this Bill into a good and workable measure. I do not, of course, know what the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack is going to say. But he has not said that he will accept no Amendment. If he should take that course I should not be able to support him, because I think the Bill can be improved in its practicability and in its utility. Let me give an instance of what I mean. The noble and learned Lord who spoke last dwelt eloquently upon the fact that every criminal should have a right of appeal, but he said that if that right were given there should be power to increase the sentence. I think that has to be remedied. How is the remedy to be effected? If it is to be effected at all, it must be done in Committee. My noble and learned friend Lord Cross, who has had great experience in the criminal law, was the author of the Commission which reported in 1879. The learned judges selected by my noble friend to form that Commission, who were presided over by Lord Blackburn, reported in favour of a Court of Criminal Appeal.

LORD ALVERSTONE: Not on fact.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: Yes. I refer my noble and learned friend to Section 544. They reported in favour of an appeal on fact. But I admit that the recommendation was not in the terms of this Bill, for they recommended that there should be a preliminary application for leave to appeal. The recommendation of that Commission is now embodied in the Amendments which stand on the Paper in the name of Lord Cross, which neither of the noble and learned Lords who have spoken has referred to. That is the Court of Criminal Appeal which I shall support in Committee. I do not know what course my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor will take, but I do hope that the Amendments standing in the name of Lord Cross will be inserted, thus getting rid of the principal objections which have been made to-day. If you refuse to go into Committee on this Bill you will be shutting out the power of discussing these Amendments.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I have not said that I was against the Bill going into Committee.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: But I gathered that that was the attitude of my noble and learned friend the Lord Chief Justice.

LORD ALVERSTONE: I made my speech in order that the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack might tell us how he proposed to deal with appeal on fact. I did not at all object to the House going into Committee on the Bill.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: Then if we are to go into Committee on the Bill I do not think it is advisable to continue this debate on the Motion to resolve into Committee.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, I entirely agree with the Lord Chief Justice that this is not, and cannot be, in any sense what is called a political question. So far as I am concerned, I am unaffected by the slightest tinge of Party feeling in introducing the Bill. The Lord Chief Justice said, very truly, that the Prisoners' Evidence Act has worked admirably in the cause of justice. I did my best to forward the passage of that measure through the House of Commons, and I remember well the prophecies that were indulged in as to the disastrous effect it would have on the administration of justice, not by obscure persons, but by men of great judgment and authority on law. There is an ingrained predisposition on the part of members of the legal profession to resist reforms affecting the law. I do not mean that their motives are anything but the best. I will recall one instance. Lord Campbell, who was a great authority, resisted to the last the proposal some fifty years ago which allowed parties in civil actions to give evidence. He declared that it would be the ruin of the administration of justice, but four or five years afterwards you will find recorded in his note-book the confession that he had been entirely wrong, and that the reform had not only proved useful but had been absolutely necessary for the administration of justice. Therefore I desire to point out that when we hear warnings of the terrible consequences that will flow from the passing of this Bill it is desirable to recall that prophecies of the same kind have been made before and have rarely been realised. The Bill, in the first instance, proposes that there shall be an appeal on the point of law. There has been no criticism of that section.

LORD ALVERSTONE: I spoke in favour of it.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Secondly, it proposes that there shall be an appeal in regard to the sentence. With regard to that, is it rash or presumptuous on my part to make a proposal substantially the same as one that was made fourteen years ago by that most august body the Council of Judges? The part of the Bill that has been most criticised is the section allowing an appeal on fact. But all the proposal amounts to is that a prisoner who is tried and convicted shall have the right to appeal to the Lord Chief Justice and three or five other judges, and that they shall have the power, not of increasing sentences, not of rendering a man guilty who has been pronounced innocent, but of declaring innocent a man who has been pronounced guilty. Is there anything inherently unjust or unreasonable in saying that three or five Judges shall have the opportunity of applying their practised and powerful intellects to sifting the evidence on which a man had been convicted and if they find him innocent, extending to him, not mercy or pardon, but acquittal? That may be right or wrong, the difficulties may be overwhelming, but it is not a subject for ridicule or derision.

LORD ALVERSTONE: I was not guilty of ridicule or derision. The matter is far too serious for that.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I should be the last to reflect on what the noble and learned Lord said. I am quite sure he desires to act in a perfectly friendly way. It is said that the Bill is a Bill for the rich and not for the poor. If every prisoner is to be entitled to an appeal—to have the report of the Judge and the evidence taken at his trial sent foward to the Court of Criminal Appeal for consideration—how can it be said that it is a Bill for the rich and not for the poor? I think some proposal of this kind is necessary because of the fallibility of Judges. There is an appeal, substantially, in all civil causes, both on the law and on the fact; and it is a significant thing that miscarriage of justice has been not infrequently proved in civil causes, even when they are tried before special juries and eminent Judges. I agree that the administration of the criminal law in this country is deservedly lauded throughout the world. What I desire is to make it as perfect as it can possibly be. Is it to be said that Judges and juries who are fallible in civil cases are infallible in criminal cases? Surely if there is a liability to error in the one Court there is a liability to error in the other Court also; and as there is nothing more dreadful than an innocent person convicted and sent to gaol, an effort should be made to establish some sort of appeal in criminal as well as in civil cases.

My noble and learned friend the Lord Chief Justice said that juries would lose their sense of responsibility by reason of there being a Court of Appeal. Can anybody really believe that, when a jury are sworn in a grave matter or even in a trifling matter, they will not trouble as much about whether a man is guilty of murder or of stealing as they otherwise would do because there is a Court of Criminal Appeal? I do not really believe that men who were engaged in the serious duty of trying a man for his life or his liberty would for a moment pay the slightest attention to any consideration of the kind. I hope I am not an unreasonable person, but I did think, and I still think, that there ought to be as free a right of appeal in criminal cases as there is in civil cases. I do not think it would involve such a tremendous expense as is supposed. But even supposing we were to add three new Judges, who would constitute a Court sitting all the year round, the expenditure would only amount to £15,000 a year, and that is nothing to be considered in comparison with so important a reform in the administration of the criminal law.

I have expressed my own view, but I recognise the weight of the representations made by the Lord Chief Justice, whose opinion I most sincerely respect, and by others, and I am prepared to accept the suggestions made by the noble Viscount Lord Cross in the Amendments which he has placed on the Paper. The substance of those Amendments is that appeals shall be allowed only where the Judge at the trial thinks there ought to be an appeal or where the Court of Criminal Appeal itself thinks there ought to be an appeal. That is substantially what was recommended by the Royal Commission of 1879; it is the same proposal that was made by a Committee of the House of Commons in 1883, and one which has been recommended to me by the Association of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions.

I regret very much that that does not dispose of all the Amendments, because the noble and learned Earl, Lord Halsbury, has put down Amendments which would forbid any appeal under any circumstances on questions of fact. I hope the noble and learned Earl will not persist in that proposal to the practical wrecking of the Bill. I do not think my original proposals were either ludicrous or unreasonable, but I have done, as I always will do, my best to meet reasonable criticism and reasonable Amendments.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: My Lords, the conciliatory manner in which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has met the criticisms that have been made disposes us to see whether we cannot, in some way or another, meet him. I confess, however, that if the question of fact is to be disposed of by any Court that does not see or hear the witnesses, I shall be compelled to adhere to my Amendments. But if the concession which the Lord Chancellor is prepared to make goes so far as the possibility of a new trial in criminal cases, I should like an opportunity of considering the matter with a view of seeing whether we cannot meet the noble and learned Lord. I want to make it distinctly plain that, if an attempt is made to abolish the right of a man to be tried by a jury, and by a jury alone, I shall persist in my Amendment. Nothing will induce me to agree to a departure from the right of trial by jury, which I believe to be the foundation of our system of jurisprudence.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, may I, with the indulgence of the House, say a further word? Papers were circulated this morning containing Amendments to be moved by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, but not making any suggestion of this kind. The matter is a very important one, and I would repeat the suggestion I made at the close of my observations, that the Bill should be committed *pro forma* to-day. This would enable the noble and learned Lord to have it reprinted, with the Amendments that he is prepared to accept inserted.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: So far as I follow the noble Earl, what he wishes is that, if there is no evidence to go to the jury, a verdict ought to be entered for the defendant. That is what I mean also. But if there is evidence which the Court thinks ought to be submitted to the jury—evidence which in the opinion of the Court would or might justify a conviction—then they might order a new trial. If there is any confusion about it, I would much rather that the further consideration of the Bill should stand over in order that we might be able to meet and consider it.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I feel sure your Lordships will be grateful to the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack if he will give us an opportunity of considering this important question further. It is one not very easy for the lay mind to follow, although I am bound to say that, if the matters had been left where the speech of the Lord Chief Justice left them, I should have felt constrained to vote with my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury, in favour of the Amendment which he has put down. But I understand that the Lord Chancellor accepts in substance, although not necessarily in the same words, the Amendments which have been put on the Paper by my noble friend Lord Cross; and I would venture to suggest to him that it would be convenient to the House if the Bill were reprinted in the form in which it is proposed to accept my noble friend Lord Cross's Amendments.

*VISCOUNT CROSS: My Lords, I should like to explain that the Amendments of which I have given notice are the outcome of a consideration of the Bill by the Association of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions, which body has been in existence for forty years, and of which I have been chairman for the past twenty years. When this Bill was introduced I thought it necessary that a special meeting of the association should be called in order to consider the terms of it. I may mention that it was the largest meeting that I have had the honour to preside over, and it was attended by men of the highest possible experience. They were unanimously against criminal appeal on fact unless it was subject to certain restrictions, and in compliance with their Resolution I have placed an Amendment on the Paper providing that on the ground of fact or of mixed law and fact an appeal shall be allowed if—(*a*) the Judge or chairman who heard the case is dissatisfied with the verdict or gives his consent to the appeal; (*b*) the Secretary of State thinks that the appeal should be allowed; or (*c*) the Court of Appeal, on application to it, gives leave to appeal: but in no other case. Those are restrictions to which I do not think anybody can object.

The great difficulty in the Bill as it originally stood was that you were taking away from the jury the final decision of fact and giving that decision to three or five Judges who had not heard the evidence, who had not seen the prisoner, and who would not hear the witnesses again. The Association of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions came to a Resolution upon that which I think the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack is also willing to accept—namely, that the Court of Appeal should not have power to reverse the finding of a jury on questions of fact otherwise than by ordering a new trial.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, I am afraid it can hardly be claimed that the regularity of your Lordships' proceedings constitutes an example to the other deliberative assemblies throughout the world. We have had what amounts to both a Second Reading debate and a discussion on Amendments which are on the Paper though we are not yet in Committee. It has been suggested that the best course for your Lordships to pursue would be to go into Committee *pro forma*. I am sorry I cannot agree with that suggestion. I think we should get into considerable difficulty. There seems to be a certain amount of agreement between the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack and my noble friend who has these Amendments on the Paper, and I suggest that it would be better to adjourn the debate on the Motion now before us to allow the Amendments to be put into such a shape as my noble friend wishes the Committee to deal with them.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I beg to protest against the statement as to the irregularity of making Second Reading speeches on the Motion to go into Committee. On many occasions Second Reading speeches have been made on this Motion, and they are perfectly regular.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I do not at all intend to object to the debate that we have listened to. We have heard very remarkable and interesting speeches. But I agree with the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees that it would be better that the debate on the Motion to go into Committee should be adjourned rather than that the Bill should be committed *pro forma*. I think the adjournment of the debate would be a preferable course, because then there would be no question as to the Amendments until they were brought forward properly for discussion. Although we have had a most interesting debate, I venture to say that we have heard, as we occasionally do in this House, noble Lords speak several times notwithstanding that we are not in Committee.

Moved, "That the further debate be adjourned."—(*The Earl of Halsbury.*)

Agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [H.L.].

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 3^a.—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Bill read 3^a.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, the first Amendment I propose to move is on Clause 4. Clause 4 is the clause which was dealt with by the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Ebury relating to the use of the title of chemist and druggist. Since the last stage of the Bill in this House we have had the advantage at the Privy Council of the presence of my noble friend, and we pointed out to him that the terms of his Amendment were not entirely satisfactory, that it would not in all respects carry out what he wanted, and that the clause, in fact, ought to be recast. The only difference between this Amendment and the noble Lord's Amendment consists in this, that the titles "pharmaceutical chemist" and "pharmacist" are reserved to the actual chemist, but companies are at liberty to use the description "chemist and druggist" or "chemist" or "druggist." That is a minor concession to the Pharmaceutical Society to which I understand my noble friends opposite do not object. Therefore I beg to move my Amendment in that form to Clause 4.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 10, to leave out the words 'No body corporate shall' and to insert the words 'A body incorporate may'; in line 11, to leave out the word 'unless' and to insert the words 'and may use the description of chemist and druggist or of chemist or of druggist if'; in line 15, to leave out the words 'nor unless' and to insert the words 'and if'; and in line 17, to leave out from the word 'business' to the end of the clause and to insert the words 'Subject as aforesaid, Sections 1 and 15 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, shall apply to a body corporate in like manner as they apply to an individual.'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, on Clause 7—the clause relating to Ireland—I have one or two Amendments of a drafting character. These Amendments are required in order to bring this Bill into conformity with the existing Acts relating to pharmacy in Ireland.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 29, to leave out from the word 'Acts' to the end of the sub-section; in page 5, line 1, at the beginning of the sub-section to insert the words 'The person appointed to conduct the business in any shop under Sub-section (1) of Section 3 or Sub-section (1) of Section 4 of this Act may be a licentiate apothecary, and'; in line 2, to leave out from '1890' to the end of the sub-section, and to insert the words 'is hereby repealed.'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: The only remaining Amendment is in the Schedule. It was pointed out to us that the preparations of the ordinary red poppy (the English poppy) used for colouring medicine and for other purposes in chemistry are of a perfectly harmless character. They do not contain morphine, and there is no reason why they should be subjected to the restrictions to which the opium poppy (the foreign poppy) is subjected.

Amendment moved—

"In the Schedule, Part II., page 6, line 10, to leave out the words 'compositions prepared from' and to insert the words 'preparations of, excepting red poppy petals and syrup of red poppies (papaver rhœas).'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD REAY: My Lords, this is a very modest measure designed to carry out the former part of the unanimous recommendations of the Physical Deterioration (1904) Committee. The Committee recommended that a Bill should be brought before Parliament at an early date, having for its object (1) to prohibit the sale of tobacco and cigarettes to children below a certain age; (2) to prohibit the sale of tobacco and cigarettes in sweet and other shops frequented by children.

There is among medical men and teachers a general conviction that the evil of juvenile smoking has gained alarming dimensions, especially among small boys from ten to fourteen years of age, and it seems to have considerably increased of late. Sir William Broadbent states that—

"The worst mischief worked by smoking is done before the age of twenty-one. Tobacco affects the heart, nerves, and digestion most seriously in the young, and early smoking tends to establish habits of self indulgence which, with the enervating influence of the tobacco, are fatal to efficiency and strength of character."

Sir William Broadbent would like—

"To make smoking before the age of twenty-one a punishable offence."

I could multiply the evidence of medical men, teachers, and employers of labour, but I will not weary your Lordships by a number of quotations. I do not think there can be any doubt about the reality of the evil. Smoking affects the eyesight and the teeth, and the prematurely aged and weary appearance of the children in one of our largest cities has been attributed to cigarette smoking.

There is already legislation on this subject in several of our Colonies. In Newfoundland it is forbidden to sell tobacco to children under the age of fifteen, in New Zealand under fifteen, in New South Wales under sixteen, in Tasmania under thirteen, in Bermuda under sixteen, and in South Australia under sixteen. As regards Canada, Ontario, and New Brunswick the age limit is eighteen, in Quebec, in Nova Scotia, in Prince Edward Island, in British Columbia, and in the North West Territories it is sixteen. In Cape Colony it is unlawful for a dealer to sell, supply, or give tobacco, cigars, or cigarettes to a child under the age of sixteen, except on the production of a written order signed by the parent, guardian, or employer of the young person. In Japan there is a law prohibiting persons under twenty from smoking. Parents and guardians who allow their charges to smoke are punished with a fine not exceeding 2s., and tobacco dealers who sell smoking instruments or tobacco are liable to a fine not exceeding £1.

In the United States a large majority of the State Legislatures have passed laws against juvenile smoking. In one State the age limit is fourteen, in three it is fifteen, in a score it is sixteen, in three it is seventeen, in eight it is eighteen, and in ten it is as high as twenty-one. In thirty-five States the evil results of smoking are taught in the common schools. In the State of Pennsylvania there is a law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors. There is a precedent for this legislation in regard to the consumption of spirits on the premises. The sale of spirits to a child under sixteen for consumption on the premises is prohibited by 35 and 36 Victoria, Cap. 94. This Bill is on parallel lines with the Act passed with regard to liquor. There can be no doubt that cigarette smoking is an impediment to the formation of character which, as J. S. Mill said, is "a completely fashioned will." Habit is a second nature, or as the Duke of Wellington said, "ten times of nature." This Bill will contribute to preserve the moral, mental, and physical fibre of boys. I trust that your Lordships will see your way to giving this measure a Second Reading. There is a considerable demand for this Bill, which the Home Office, after it has been read a second time, wish to be referred to a Select Committee, to which I have no objection.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Reay.*)

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: My Lords, if the noble Lord is going to insist on the Bill in its present form I shall certainly feel compelled to move its rejection. It is provided in this Bill that—

> "No person shall sell, give, or supply tobacco in any form to or for the use of any person under the age of sixteen years."

In the corresponding Act dealing with the sale of spirituous liquors to children it is very properly provided that no person shall "knowingly" sell, which, of course, makes all the difference. It would be a monstrous provision without this qualification. I notice that further on in Clause 2 it is provided that—

> "The onus of proof of age shall lie on the person charged with a breach of the provisions of this Act."

If these words are insisted upon it seems to me that it would be a monstrous and improper Bill. Otherwise, I have no objection to it.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, I was chairman of the Standing Committee on Law in another place when the Bill dealing with the sale of intoxicating liquors to children was considered, and I can inform the noble and learned Earl that the word "knowingly" was inserted after long discussion. I quite appreciate my noble friend not having inserted the word in the Bill himself, but, remembering as I do that ultimately it had to be inserted in the Liquor Bill, I can understand the question being raised here. But what I would submit to the noble and learned Earl is that these are really points which might be left to the Committee stage.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, I hope what I have to say will quite satisfy the noble and learned Lord opposite. The Secretary of State intimated in another place that he would be glad if this matter could be referred to a Select Committee, and I have no doubt that they would there deal with the question which was raised by the noble and learned Lord. I understand that one of the reasons why this was suggested by the Secretary of State is that the form of the Bill does not altogether commend itself to the Home Office, and he was anxious that there should be further consideration. The speech of the noble Lord in moving the Second Reading contained a great deal of very interesting matter, which I hope will be placed before the Select

Committee. The Committee might also have information as to the effect of a similar prohibition in force in the Isle of Man. I think it would be advisable that the Select Committee should be appointed without delay, so that it could meet before the Whitsuntide adjournment and proceed after that regularly with its meetings.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY: My Lords, I am glad that this Bill has been introduced, but I cannot help seeing great difficulty in carrying it out owing to the wide use of what are called penny-in-the-slot machines. I do not know whether the noble Lord has considered that point. I have observed small boys obtaining cigarettes from these machines, and unless that means of supply could be stopped the consumption would not be checked.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I hope those in charge of the Bill will also remember the extreme difficulty of obtaining proof of age. We experienced that difficulty in regard to our recruits. Noble Lords will remember that it was sometimes quite impossible to prove whether a youth was eighteen or not. We were frequently told that we took a great many youths who were not eighteen, and we ended by some ingenious arrangement which enabled Army doctors to consider each individual youth and determine whether he had what was called the physical equivalents of eighteen. I cannot conceive any ingenuity that would restrict the use of such a machine as the right rev. Prelate has mentioned to a certain age.

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and referred to a Select Committee.

SCHOOL REPAIRS.

*THE MARQUESS OF HUNTLY rose to ask the Lord President of the Council whether the Board of Education could furnish a Return showing the amounts expended in repairs and improvements by each local authority since the adoption of the Education Act (1902), upon (1) Provided schools; (2) Non-provided schools, under the "wear and tear" clause; also the amounts expended by the managers of non-provided schools in repairs and improvements on these schools in each local authority during the same period.

The noble Marquess said: My Lords, since I put this question to the noble Earl I have furnished him with a return from my own county giving this information. I have ascertained that it is quite easy for the local authorities to give the Return I ask for. Each educational Budget shows at the end of the year exactly what has been spent by the local authority on provided schools, and what has been given towards non-provided schools under the "wear and tear" clause. I ask for this Return because there is abroad, and I think even at the Board of Education, a very hazy notion as to the amount which has been spent since the passing of the Act of 1902 upon provided and non-provided schools. Take my own county, Huntingdonshire, as an instance. There the amount that has been expended is equivalent to more than a penny in the £ on the rates of the county. That shows what an enormous sum is already coming out of the rates for the repairs of these schools. I have seen various amounts quoted in the course of discussions, and I think we ought to have some Return showing distinctly what sum has been paid.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I have to thank the noble Marquess for his kindness in postponing this question until a day when I was able to be in the House. I wish I could give a more favourable reply to his questions, because as I stated the other day in reply to the most rev. Primate, we are only too pleased to give any statistics or figures which can throw light upon the question. I am sorry to say, in answer to the noble Marquess, that the Board of Education have no statistics in their possession which would enable them to give him the information he requires. As to obtaining it from the different local authorities, I am afraid that any such information we could get from them would be so incomplete as to be actually misleading and therefore valueless.

In the first place, the noble Marquess is not accurate in saying that it is the custom generally to separate the expenditure on council and voluntary schools in the accounts of the local authorities. It is done, I know, in Huntingdonshire, but it is not done in a great many counties, and not by some of the most important and largest local authorities. As to the wear and tear repairs, it is a very common practice to include them in a general contract, and in a certain number of cases the repairs are carried out by the workmen in the employment of the local authority. In that case the noble Marquess will see that to provide figures distinguishing between the different kind of repairs it would be necessary to make a detailed examination of the time books of the various workmen employed, which, as your Lordships will see, would be a very troublesome business.

Then as regards the amounts expended by the managers of non-provided schools, I am afraid that in order to find the amount it would be necessary to send a circular to every one of the 14,000 voluntary schools in the country, which would be a very expensive and tedious matter. There is a further point. A considerable number of the schools are privately owned. I daresay many of your Lordships own schools. In these cases the repairs are often executed by the estate workmen in the employ of the owner, and similarly in that case the amount would have to be taken out of the estate books, which I think is almost more than one could expect a private owner to do. I fear that, looking at the matter in all its bearings, the information which could be obtained from the local authorities would be of so thoroughly partial and incomplete a character that it would be misleading. I am afraid, therefore, I am not able to comply with the request the noble Marquess has made.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I agree with the noble Marquess that it would be of great advantage if it were possible to find out the amounts expended in repairs and improvements by the local authorities since the adoption of the Act of 1902. I sympathise with what the noble Marquess said as to the increase in the rates in most parts of the country, and it is by such inquiries as this that we can get an idea as to why the rates are so burdensome. Having occupied the position of President of the Board of Education I can recognise the difficulty of obtaining statistics from the local authorities, but the amount spent on repairs and improvements in provided and non-provided schools should be obtainable because the local authority is bound to keep the accounts of all the expenses of all schools within its area. But I admit the difficulty of differentiating the "wear and tear" expenses in non-provided schools, and I do not see how the Board of Education could find out the amount expended by the managers of non-provided schools on repairs and improvements. It would be very interesting to know what has been spent on these voluntary schools; but I think the only body that could supply the information would be the National Society.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: I have been endeavouring, as regards schools connected with the Church of England, to obtain such statistics as are available of the sums spent from voluntary sources since 1892. The investigation is not quite so simple in all cases as the noble Marquess thinks. I do not, however, mean that it is not forthcoming, and any information we ultimately get will be entirely at the service of the House.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, my noble friend behind me has stated that His Majesty's Government will be most happy to give all possible information to the House in connection with the subject of education. We quite agree that it is most desirable we should do so; but the information ought to be full and not partial, or there will be a danger of all kinds of inaccurate conclusions being drawn from it. It is quite possible that the National Society may be willing to give the information, but there are many denominational schools which are not under the National Society at all. I have several schools of my own that are in connection with the Established Church because the majority of the parishioners are connected with the Established Church, but they are none of them under the National Society. The Return would, therefore, be a very imperfect one. I am afraid many private owners of schools would find it extremely difficult to make out these accounts, and I do not think they would be willing to give themselves the trouble. Do not let us have inadequate and unsatisfactory information. If we do we shall have all sorts of contradictory conclusions drawn from it, and it will be practically of no use at all. As to the information asked for, there is no possible chance of its being obtained in time for the discussions on the Education Bill. I therefore hope the noble Lord will not press for the Return.

*THE MARQUESS OF HUNTLY: I beg to withdraw my request for the Return.

House adjourned at a quarter before Seven o'clock, to Friday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 22nd May, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES (ORDER IN COUNCIL).

The Comptroller of the Household reported His Majesty's Answer to the Address of the 21st February, as followeth:—"I have received your Address, praying that I will make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to your House on the 21st February last. I will comply with your advice."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Barry Railway Bill [Lords]: Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords]; Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [Lords]; Holyhead Water Bill [Lords]; Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. Not amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Manchester Corporation Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Bury Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Poole Corporation Water Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Lancashire Electric Power Bill. Reported with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP G).

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON reported from the Committee on Group G of Private Bills: That Mr. Brotherton, one of the Members of the said Committee, was not present during the sitting of the Committee this day.

Report to lie upon the Table.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolution reported from the Select Committee.

"That, in the case of the Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that

Clause 49 be struck out of the Bill, unless the consent of the London and North Western Railway Company, as required by Standing Order 64, is proved before the Committee on the Bill. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolution agreed to.

Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords]. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Amendments to—Manchester and Milford Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Matrimonial Causes Acts, 1857 and 1866, by extending the powers of the Court in relation to Maintenance and Alimony and leave to intervene, and to amend the Evidence Further Amendment Act, 1869." [Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the incorporation of a company for providing accommodation for Trans-Channel Traffic; and for other purposes." [Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise increased contributions to the Railway Clearing System Superannuation Fund Corporation by the railway companies and bodies contributing thereto." [Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Scottish Provident Institution Buildings, Limited, to pay interest out of capital on certain of their shares; and for other purposes." [Scottish Provident Institution Buildings [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Newport Harbour Commissioners; and for other purposes." [Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to transfer the Lower School of Lawrence Sheriff at Rugby to the Governors of the Lower School of Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby, constituted by this Act; and for other purposes." [Rugby Subordinate School Bill [Lords], now "Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords].]"

And also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own undertaking, and upon that Company in conjunction with the Great Western Railway Company, the Caledonian Railway Company, the Great Northern Railway Company, and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company in relation to their respective joint undertakings; and for other purposes." [London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords].]

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords]; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; Rugby Subordinate School Bill [Lords], now "Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords];" London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords]; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petition from Nantmelyn, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Sion College, London, against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Ashby Magna; Beckenham; Blackburn (two); Bromfield; Chantry; Dinas Powis (two); East Peckham (two); Forest Gate; Hanley Castle; Holy Island; Irlam (two); Little Carlton with Castle Carlton; Little Marsden (two); Mappleton (two); Penrith East; Port Eynon (two); Prittlewell; Rochdale; St.

Leonards-on-Sea; Southowram (two); Staplehurst; Swallow; and Titchfield; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Fordyce, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA (CONSTITUTIONS OF THE TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONIES).

Petition of the Coloured People's Vigilance Committee, for enfranchisement of the coloured races; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Tynemouth, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FISHERY BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part I., General Report [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON TRAFFIC (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire and report as to the Means of Locomotion and Traffic in London, Vol. IV. Appendices with Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Middlesex, reconstituting the Parliamentary Polling Districts in the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Copy presented, of Customs Union Convention provisionally agreed to by the Representatives of the South African Colonies at a Conference held at Pietermaritzburg in March, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CEYLON.

Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to an Agreement for Lease of Pearl Fisheries on the coast of Ceylon [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EMIGRATION.

Copy presented, of Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended December 31st, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3595 and 3596 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 650 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

STREET BETTING.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address April 11th; *Mr. Cave*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 1:9.]

PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES ACTS, 1879 AND 1884.

Address for "Return showing the working of the regulations made in 1886 for carrying out the Prosecution of Offences Acts, 1879 and 1884, with statistics setting forth the number, nature, result, and cost of the proceedings instituted by the director in accordance with those regulations, from the 1st day of January, 1905, to the 31st day of December, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 241, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Postal Facilities at Rockchapel, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that requests have been addressed to the postal authorities by the priest and principal inhabitants of Rockchapel, county Cork, for an improved postal service; and, in view of the fact that the mail service is at present carried on viâ Mallow, Abbeyfeale, county Limerick, Brosna, county Kerry, and Rockchapel, county Cork, a round of 70–80 miles at great expense, whether steps will be taken to expedite the mail service viâ the present Newmarket–Meelin route, the latter place being distant only a few miles from Rockchapel.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) An application has been received for an improvement of the service to Rockchapel, but as the existing service is carried on at a considerable loss I regret that I should not be justified in incurring the considerable additional expense which would be involved by serving Rockchapel as the hon. Member suggests, by way of Newmarket and Meelin instead of by way of Brosna.

Naval Shipbuilding Statistics.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that a recent Return, Dockyard and Contract Built Ships (No. 337 for 1905), gives figures of comparative cost, without any explanation of the fact that the Royal dockyards only build hulls of ships with a few exceptions, such as the engines of His Majesty's ship "Encounter"; whether the dockyard charges include depreciation on buildings, machinery, yard craft, and interest on capital cost; whether he is aware that the accounts of the ordnance factories, on the recommendation of a committee, insert explanations that prices for Government work do not include price of land, interest on capital, or other trade charges not included in Government manufacture; and whether this practice can be carried out in such publications as the Navy Estimates.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Return in question asked only for the "completed cost" of each ship. As regards the inclusion of charges for depreciation on buildings, etc., no capital account is kept, and depreciation is not included, as such, in the dockyard charges; but the figures shown in column 7 of the Return include a fair proportion of (a) the annual outlay upon new workshops, building slips, storehouses, fixed machinery, etc., and (b) of the cost of their maintenance, and also (c) the amounts due to depreciation of workshop plant. It is not, therefore, considered necessary to insert explanatory notes as suggested by the hon. Member, in such publications as the Navy Estimates.

Memorial of Customs Watchers.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state when the non-pensioner watchers of His Majesty's Customs, London, may expect to receive a reply to the memorial they presented to the Board of Customs in October of last year; whether this memorial has yet been forwarded to the Treasury; and whether he is aware that the non-pensioner watchers asked the Board of Customs to receive a deputation from their class so long ago as November last, and have not yet received a reply to their request.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The memorial stated to have been presented in October last cannot be traced, but certain proposals affecting watchers are under discussion between the Customs and the Treasury, and pending decision, which it is hoped will shortly be arrived at thereon, the question of receiving a deputation remains in abeyance.

Irish Boys Joining the Royal Navy.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the number of Irish boys who joined the Royal Navy between May 1st, 1904, and April 30th, 1906, at ports in Great Britain and Ireland other than Queenstown.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) In the two years ended December 31st, 1905, approximately 230 boys (*i.e.*, entries under eighteen, including boys, youths, domestics, artificers, and artisans) born in Ireland entered the Royal Navy at ports in Great Britain and Ireland other than Queenstown. Of these about 200 were "boys" and "youths."

Civil Service Hired Assistant Clerks.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, seeing that the Vote for the Accountant General's Department of the Admiralty shows a new charge of £13,442 for salaries of 151 hired clerks who have not passed a Civil Service examination, will he state on whose recommendation these changes have been made and in whose patronage these appointments are vested, especially having regard to the fact that the alterations involve a reduction of the staff of Second Division clerks, who have passed competitive examinations, from 148 to 90; and, as examination by the Civil Service Commissioners has hitherto been regarded as the mode of access to the public service, will he state why this system has been replaced by one which puts a higher charge on the Estimates.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The grade of hired accountant clerk was introduced as part of a general reorganisation of the Accountant-General's Department. The clerks are appointed by the Accountant General of the Navy, who satisfies himself as to their capabilities and character. As previously explained, no examination is necessary for the new class, which is not established. Their employment does not entail a higher charge on the Estimates, the mean cost of a hired accountant clerk being only £100 a year, as compared with £194, that of a Second Division clerk. In addition to the saving in salary there will ultimately be a very considerable saving on the Civil Pensions Vote.

Irish Exports.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the actual amount and the proportion contributed by Ireland to each of the following classes of exports, of which the total export for 1905 from the United Kingdom is stated to be, respectively, linen yarn, £927,617; linen manufactures (piece goods, plain, unbleached, or bleached), £4,225,394; piece goods, checked, printed, or dyed, and damask and diaper, £335,635; piece goods, sailcloth, £280,840; linen thread for sewing, £262,396; other linen manufactures, unenumerated, £1,236,951; and whether he will set out the figures in parallel columns.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The official Returns of exports do not show what proportion of the exports of the articles referred to originated in Ireland. The value of the exports shipped from Irish ports direct to places abroad was as follows: linen yarn, £35,764; linen piece goods plain, bleached or unbleached, £911; linen thread for sewing, £273; other linen manufactures unenumerated, £7,819. No doubt a very much larger proportion of the total exports of these articles was of Irish origin, though shipped abroad from ports in Great Britain.

Prosecution of Mr. R. Murphy for Dog Licence.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the prosecution of Mr. Richard Murphy, Coachford, for having an unlicensed dog in his possession; is he aware that Mr. Murphy applied for a licence in the Irish language, and that it was refused; will he state the grounds for this refusal; is he aware that Mr. Murphy was served with a summons on Good Friday, and will he explain why this was subsequently taken back and another issued in its stead; will he state the *locus standi* of an ex-clerk of the petty sessions, named Carey, who intervened during the hearing of the case, pointing out to the Bench the penalty incurred by the defendant; and, seeing that the policeman, Constable Huggins, who prosecuted in this case, is causing annoyance to Mr. Murphy by constantly sauntering in front of his residence, will he say what steps he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that Mr. Murphy's application for a dog licence was written in the Irish language, and that the clerk of petty sessions informed Mr. Murphy that he was unable to read it, whereupon Mr. Murphy at once left. He was subsequently summoned by the police for having an unlicensed dog, and was fined half-a-crown and costs and ordered to take out a licence forthwith. Mr. Murphy was first served with a summons on Good Friday, but doubts having arisen as to the legality of service on that day a fresh summons was served. Mr. Carey, the late clerk of petty sessions, attends the court, with the approval of the magistrates, for the purpose of assisting his son, who has been appointed clerk. I am informed that there is no foundation for the suggestion that Constable Huggins is causing annoyance to Mr. Murphy, beyond the fact that the constable has several times visited Mr. Murphy's house in connection with his omission to take out a licence.

Contribution of India and the Colonies to the Imperial Institute.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will supplement the information given in the Statement of present contributions to the Imperial Institute made by the Government of India and by the British Colonies and Protectorates [Cd. 2874], by stating the aggregate contributions of such Colonies and Protectorates since the formation of the Institute to March 31st last, such information having already been given in respect to India.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The required information will be supplied in due course.

Naval Cadets—Withdrawals on the Ground of Health.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state how many of the 588 cadets who have been selected and passed by the Board of Admiralty for the Royal Naval College, Osborne, have been withdrawn from the college on account of health considerations or causes other than inability to show satisfactory progress.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Of the 588 cadets entered since September, 1903, sixteen have been withdrawn on account of health considerations or causes other than inability to show satisfactory progress.

Roman Catholic Schools.

MR. BOLAND: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state the number of Catholic schools in England and Wales, respectively, on January 1st, 1906, in urban areas with a population of between 1,000 and 2,000, between 2,000 and 3,000, between 3,000 and 4,000, and between 4,000 and 5,000, respectively; can he state the number of schools in each of these categories in which the proportion of non Catholic children exceeds 20 and 25 per cent., respectively; and can he state the number of Catholic schools in urban areas with a population of 5,000 and over, in which the proportion of non-Catholic children exceeds 20 and 25 per cent., respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) As regards the first paragraph, the hon. Member will find, from the already published Statement, No. 2947, the number of schools in the several categories desired which are outside the urban areas of 5,000 population and over. I do not think it would serve any useful purpose to go to the great labour of working out the figures for each of the various urban areas of differing populations desired by the hon. Member. I have no information upon the points asked in the remaining two paragraphs of the Question, nor, in the absence of a religious census, do I see how any such figures could be obtained.

The Education Bill.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he can state approximately how many educational endowments are liable to be affected by Part II. of the Education (England and Wales) Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) A large number of legal interpretations, which it is not in my power to make, would necessarily be involved in any attempt to set out a comprehensive list of all educational endowments which may be liable to be affected by Part II. of the Education Bill. For these and similar reasons it would only be misleading to give the number asked for in the Question.

SIR E. CARSON: To ask the President of the Board of Education if he could give to the House any approximate estimate of how the sum of £1,000,000 mentioned in Clause 12 of the Bill is arrived at, or upon what basis the said sum is arrived at.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The sum of £1,000,000 was arrived at by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I should suppose, by a careful consideration of what his Budget for next year is likely to be able properly to supply in relief of the educational burden. I must refer the hon. and learned Member to the Answers given on April 26th, May 7th, and May 10th† to previous Questions on this subject.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 28, 985, 1479.

Education Bill—Minor Local Authorities.

MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he will state the number of minor local education authorities within the area of which not more than one public elementary school is situated; the total number of such schools connected with each denomination or classed as provided schools; and the number of children in average attendance at each class of schools in such single-school areas.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The term "minor local authority" connotes boroughs under 10,000 population, urban districts under 20,000, and parishes in rural districts. The total number of these within the area of which, respectively, there is one and only one public elementary school is 7,744, taking the January, 1906, figures; 22 of these are boroughs, and more than 100 are urban districts. The average attendance of these schools cannot be given accurately until further Returns are compiled, but it is approximately 694,164. (The denomination of the schools in each of the 7,744 areas above described is set out in the table of figures below.) It must be clearly understood, however, that this does not mean that 7,744 is the number of areas in which there is one, but only one, public elementary school available for the children of the area, for the reasons that (1) this figure does not include the numerous parishes in which there is no school at all, and the children have to walk to the school in the next parish, and (2) on the other hand, in the case of very many of the 7,744 areas, as also of the last-named parishes, the children are within easy distance of one or more schools in neighbouring parishes, and frequently go to such, and there is, in this way, a choice of schools for such parishes and districts. In this connection, however, it should be noted that there are a very large number of places, urban as well as rural, where, though there is more than one school within the area or within reach, there is no effective choice of schools, since all the schools within reach are of one type—denominational or undenominational, as the case may be. This may be equally true of any of the 7,744 areas above-named. It is a matter that can only be determined by knowledge of local conditions in each case. Statement showing the number of minor local authorities on January 1st, 1906, within the area of which there is one, and only one, public elementary school with approximate figures for the average attendance in such schools.

Note:—The term "undenominational, etc.," used below comprises British and Foreign Society's schools, and some other schools which are either undenominational, or of which the Board do not know the denomination.

England.

Classification of Schools.		Number of Minor Local Authorities.	Average Attendance (approximate).
Council schools		1,493	189,033
Voluntary schools	Church of England	5,497	445,067
	Roman Catholic	30	1,858
	Wesleyan	16	1,523
	Undenominational, &c.	155	14,075
	Total	7,191	651,556

Wales and Monmouth.

Classification of Schools.		Number of Minor Local Authorities.	Average Attendance (approximate).
Council schools		220	19,475
Voluntary schools	Church of England	307	21,508
	Roman Catholic	1	43
	Wesleyan	—	—
	Undenominational, &c.	25	1,582
	Total	553	42,608

England and Wales together.

Classification of Schools.		Number of Minor Local Authorities.	Average Attendance (approximate).
Council schools		1,713	208,508
Voluntary schools	Church of England	5,804	466,575
	Roman Catholic	31	1,901
	Wesleyan	16	1,523
	Undenominational, &c.	180	15,657
	Total	7,744	694,164

Architect of Houses at Battery Park, Stornoway.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state by whom the specifications for the Houses at Battery Park, Stornoway, were prepared.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair*). By Colonel Gore Booth, R.E.

Police and the d'Angely Case.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the London police are prosecuting inquiries into the antecedents of Madame d'Angely through the French police; and, if so, by whose orders such inquiries are being made and for what purpose they are being carried out.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Inquiries have been made and are being made by the Commissioner of Police, acting with my authority, with a view to laying the results before the Royal Commission. Grave charges have been brought against the police, and the police are entitled, in my opinion, to take any fair and lawful measures which may be necessary to make good their defence.

Education of Children on the Gardens in India.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the Papers relating to the education of children on the gardens in India.

(*Answered by Mr. Morley.*) As I stated in the Answer which I gave on February 22nd last to a Question by the hon. Member for Manchester, North Division,† the subject is engaging the attention of the Government of India, and I will inform them of the interest taken in it by Members of this House. There are no Papers that I can lay on the Table.

Irish Railways—State Control.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a scheme is prepared for State purchase of Irish railways; and, if so, whether this scheme vests the future control in the railways in a nominated, or partly nominated board, or whether he proposes to vest control in Irish representatives elected by the electorate, who will alone bear the financial burden involved.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) No scheme for the State purchase of Irish railways has been prepared, and I am not at present in a position to make any statement on the subject.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. "Actæon"—Pollution of the Medway.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what are the terms of the instructions that have been issued in regard to the discharge of crude sewage from H.M.S. "Actæon" into the Medway, with a view to obviating danger of contamination to the adjacent oyster layings; and in what manner it is proposed to regulate the discharge, so as to avoid such danger.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): If my hon. friend will permit, I propose to hand him a copy of the instructions issued by the captain of the "Actæon." If, on reading them, he desires the subject to be further considered, he will perhaps confer with my hon. friend the Civil Lord.

Female Labour at Devonport.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what were the wages per week of the men who have been displaced in the Devonport Dockyard by the women who are now employed at polishing and upholstering; and what is the result of the experiment in female labour in the trades named, both as regards cost and efficiency, as against the labour of the men displaced.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Dockyard officers report that the men displaced by the women who are now employed at polishing were joiners, and were actually receiving, if established, 31s., and if hired, 32s. 6d. per week. The men displaced by the women upholstering were skilled labourers, and actually receiving an average of 23s. 4½d. per week. In regard to upholstering, there has been considerably more work turned out since female labour was employed than was formerly done by the men, and in quality the work has been at least equally good. In regard to polishing, the work has been equal in quantity and superior in quality to that turned out by the men.

MR. O'GRADY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that for the money received for this upholstering, one cannot expect good work, as it is something like 8s. below the proper amount?

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I know nothing about that.

Engine-Room Artificer's Grievance.

*MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to a case in which a young engine-room artificer was arrested and marched through the streets by a naval patrol for wearing a shirt not of the regulation pattern; whether, in such a case, the offender would be entered as a criminal in the annual Returns of the naval crime; whether he is aware that these minute regulations as to dress and their strict enforcement, ordered under the King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, Article 530, Clause 1, have caused considerable irritation and been the cause of numerous desertions; and whether he will consider the advisability of issuing such instructions as will prevent such cases in the future.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clii., 503.

*MR EDMUND ROBERTSON; Full inquiry is being made into the case referred to, and I will let the hon Member know the result.

Naval Courts-Martial.

MR. DUNN (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will favourably consider a proposal to assimilate the procedure at naval courts-martial with that at present adopted at military courts-martial, with the object of affording naval prisoners charged with offences the facilities for defence possessed by military prisoners in a like position.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The point referred to by the hon. Member will be brought under the consideration of the Board.

Soldiers and Civilian Attire.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the disadvantage which non-commissioned officers in the Army above the rank of sergeant are subject to as compared with rank and file soldiers, in regard to the privilege of wearing plain clothes at their stations when off duty; that on some stations general officers grant the permission and others do not; and whether he will take steps to secure uniformity in the matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): My hon. friend is mistaken in supposing that the rank and file possess any privilege in regard to the wearing of plain clothes at their stations as compared with the non-commissioned officers. In this respect they are on the same footing, except that sergeants and superior ranks are permitted to keep plain clothes in barrack rooms. Under the King's regulations non-commissioned officers and men may be allowed to wear plain clothes when proceeding on furlough, or pass, or for purposes of recreation. It is not considered expedient to interfere with the discretion of the general officers commanding in such matters.

Yeomanry Regulations.

*MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, under the existing Yeomanry regulations, an officer or trooper who is prevented by illness or other unavoidable cause from attending preliminary drills, but who subsequently attends the whole of the annual training, is deprived of all pay and allowances.

MR. HALDANE: The regulations permit general officers commanding to grant pay and allowances in such cases if they are satisfied that the failure to attend is due to circumstances beyond the control of the officer or yeoman concerned.

King's Island, Limerick.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of Mr. Michael Sheehan, of Limerick, who has been the yearly tenant of the King's Island at Limerick; is he aware that this tenancy has been held by the Sheehan family for forty years at a yearly rental, and that the rent was paid punctually: will he say when Mr. Sheehan was called upon by the War Office to surrender this land, and when was the land surrendered; also what compensation do the War Office intend to offer as compensation to the tenant.

*MR. HALDANE: The facts are as stated in the first part of the Question. As grazing was required for Government horses during the first portion of the year, it was decided in July, 1905, to terminate the existing tenancy on September 29th, 1905, and notice to this effect was accordingly given. Under the revised conditions Mr. Sheehan became grazing tenant from October 1st to December 31st, 1905, at a reduced rent. The land is now in military occupation, but will be relet from July 1st to December 31st, 1906, when Mr. Sheehan will have an opportunity of tendering. As the letting was a grazing tenancy only, no compensation was payable on its termination on September 29th, 1905.

Farrier-Sergeant M'Rury, of Lovat's Scouts.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War why No. 317, Farrier-Sergeant M'Rury, 3rd Squadron, Lovat's Scouts, who is acknowledged to have been injured during the training of 1903, when in Government service, through no fault of his own, and who is permanently injured, and was for three months incapacitated altogether from doing his ordinary work, has never been able to get any compensation whatever from the Government; and whether in view of the effect of this failure to get any compensation on recruiting in South Uist and the adjoining islands, he will reconsider his case.

*MR. HALDANE: A report on this case has been called for.

Indian Excise Administration.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Committee appointed to inquire into the excise administration of India, and to promote reforms therein, has completed its investigations; and whether he is now in a position to state when the Report of the Committee will be published.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose, Burghs): I have ascertained that the Government of India expect to receive the report about the middle of next month.

Indian Education Expenditure.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will inform the House of the amount of the annual grants from the Indian Exchequer for elementary education purposes in India, and the number of children attending public elementary schools in the country during the last year for which statistics are available.

MR. MORLEY: The total expenditure from public funds upon elementary education in India during 1904–05 (which is the latest year for which figures are available) is stated by the Government of India at £578,067, but this does not include the cost of inspection, or the expenditure on children receiving elementary instruction in secondary schools, which cannot be separately shown. The number of children attending public elementary schools during the same year was 3,627,000.

Indian Revenue for Opium.

MR. BRIGHT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what is the amount of revenue from opium; what is the probable amount of the surplus of the Indian revenue; and can he give any hope that by a moderate economy in Indian military expenditure enough money can be found to enable the Indian Government to dispense with this item of revenue.

MR. MORLEY: In the budget estimates for the present year the total net receipts on account of opium (including excise) are estimated at £3,833,000. The surplus for the financial year is estimated at £874,100. As to the last paragraph, as the subject is to come up for discussion next week, I hope my hon. friend will consent to wait until then for such an answer as I can give him.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Has the right hon. Gentleman any reason to believe that the effect of opium on Orientals is more serious than that of wine and spirits on Europeans?

MR. MORLEY: The hon. Gentleman is anticipating the discussion on this subject.

China—Sir Robert Hart's Position.

* SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether satisfactory assurances have now been received from the Government of China that no interference is intended with the position of Sir Robert Hart or his eventual successor.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): I can add nothing material to the answer given on the 17th instant,† in which I stated that the Chinese Government had disclaimed any intention of not adhering to the Loan Agreements of 1896 and 1898, which stipulate that during their currency the administration of the customs is to remain as at present constituted. We understand this to mean that the terms of the decree will not make any change in the present administration of the customs under Sir Robert Hart, but we have asked for a definite assurance to this effect.

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† See Col. 645.

Turkey and Macedonian Reform.

MR. GOOCH (Bath): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the present temper of the Porte, His Majesty's Government will resist the increase of the Turkish tariff till Lord Lansdowne's conditions, involving the administrative control of Macedonia by the Powers, have been accepted.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The question of the administrative control of Macedonia was settled for the present by the institution of the International Financial Commission on conditions which were accepted by His Majesty's late Government, and we do not consider that any other course could have been adopted. The assent of His Majesty's Government and that of the other Powers to the proposed increase of the Turkish tariff will only be given if a satisfactory guarantee can be obtained that the proceeds will be applied to making good the deficit in the Macedonian Budget.

Opium Imports in China.

MR. BRIGHT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there is any treaty or agreement between this country and the Chinese Government which empowers us to introduce opium into China, even if its introduction were objected to by that Government.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Foreign opium is imported into China on payment of a duty of thirty taels per 100 catties, with the addition of a likin, not exceeding eighty taels per 100 catties, by virtue of the additional Article to the Chefoo Convention of 1876, signed in London in 1885. This arrangement may be terminated by either party giving twelve months notice.

Turkey and Egypt.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of recent occurrences, His Majesty's Government intend to revise the relations between Egypt and the Sultan of Turkey; and, if so, whether they will consider the desirability of terminating the tribute.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government do not desire to raise these questions, and as a matter of fact the Egyptian tribute is entirely pledged to British and Foreign holders of Turkish bonds, and is remitted direct to them.

Insane Criminals.

MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W. R., Skipton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of His Majesty's subjects are at present being detained during His Majesty's pleasure in prison and in asylums; and whether these cases are individually systematically, and periodically examined as to their fitness for release, and a what intervals of time.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.). At the present time there are 710 persons detained in lunatic asylums during His Majesty's pleasure, besides one who is awaiting removal from prison to an asylum. In each case an individual report as to the patient's condition is made once a year to the Secretary of State, and if necessary special reports are called for at more frequent intervals.

The Imperial Institute.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the undertaking given by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer in this House, on May 6th, 1902,† that the projected transfer of the Imperial Institute to the nation would impose no financial charge on the Exchequer, unless further duties, not at present contemplated, should be imposed on the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade; whether such further duties in connection with the Institute have been imposed on the Board of Trade; and what has been the aggregate, direct and indirect cost, if any, to the nation of the Imperial Institute since its transfer.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cvii., 802.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I am aware of the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1902, to which the hon. Member refers. Since the Imperial Institute Transfer Act, the work of the Imperial Institute has considerably increased, which has thrown additional duties of supervision upon the Board of Trade, but there has been no cost to the Imperial Exchequer in consequence. A grant of £300 a year for four years has lately been placed at the disposal of the Board of Trade by Treasury for researches with regard to cotton cultivation within the Empire, and these researches have been carried on through the Scientific and Technical Department of the Imperial Institute.

Deaths through Vaccination.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board with reference to the twenty-eight deaths recorded in the Registrar-General's 67th Report for 1904, as due to cow pox or other effects of vaccination, whether any compensation has been given to the survivors by the State; whether provision can be made in the Estimates for such compensation to be paid in future cases of deaths from this cause; and, if not, whether he will consider the desirability of inserting a clause providing for such compensation in his promised Vaccination Bill.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): No compensation has been given in the cases referred to. I could not give any promise that provision for compensation in any such cases would be proposed either in the Estimates or by a Bill. I may add that the twenty-eight deaths alluded to in the Question include not only those stated by medical practitioners or by coroners' juries to be due to vaccination, but also those in which vaccination appeared from the medical certificates to be in any way connected with the cause of death.

Halfpenny Postal Rates.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that there are a number of persons in this country who are subject to annoyance, to fines, and to obstruction in their business operations by being unable to distinguish what communications may and may not go through the Post Office at the halfpenny rate; whether only two persons in this country have solved the problem what is bookpost or halfpenny matter; whether he has declared that these two officials disagree on the point; and whether he will still further attempt to explain and simplify the rules in the Postal Guide.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets Poplar): No doubt it is difficult to draw an exact line between communications which should be, or should not be, allowed to go through the Post Office at the halfpenny rate, but I think that my hon. friend greatly exaggerates the general ignorance and want of intelligence which he assumes prevails on this Question. He is, however, perhaps aware that in connection with the Postal reforms agreed to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and mentioned in the Budget, I am about to extend the operation of the halfpenny rate, and I hope at the same time to be able to draw a clearer line and to simplify the rules.

Bristol Telegraph Department.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the women supervisors employed in the Bristol Telegraph Department have been forbidden to sit down during the whole of the eight hours' working day; that the only respite allowed them during that time is the thirty minutes rest for dinner; that one of them was recently told that if it was necessary for her to sit down the Department would soon find someone else to do her work; and if he will give instructions that in future suitable periods of rest shall be allowed the women concerned, and that all other employees of the office referred to shall be treated with consideration.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have looked into the matter, and can assure my hon. friend that he is misinformed in thinking that the women supervisors at Bristol have been forbidden to rest whilst on duty.

Education Grants.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what is the total amounts of Exchequer grants allotted to elementary educational purposes in Great Britain and Ireland respectively, and the number of children attending public elementary schools during the past year.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The figures desired will be found, so far as they are obtainable, in the Return shortly to be issued by my right hon. friend the Home Secretary, in response to the order made by the House of Commons on April 4th last, on the Motion of the hon. Member for Kerry, W.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.) asked as to Ireland's share of the grant.

MR. BIRRELL: I must have notice of that.

Examinations in Welsh Subjects.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will consider the omission from the regulations and syllabus for the preliminary examination for the certificate, 1907, of Welsh subjects; and will he restore the subject of Welsh to a position of at least equal prominence with that which it enjoyed in the Code for former years.

MR. BIRRELL: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in regard to the place now occupied by Wesh subjects in the syllabus for the Preliminary Examination for the certificate, 1907. Provision has been made in the Revised Regulations and Syllabus for this Examination for questions to be set in history and geography having a special reference to Welsh history and geography. In the Examination in English language and literature an opportunity will also be afforded to candidates from Wales to use their knowledge of Welsh, and, as in previous years, Welsh may be taken as one of the optional subjects. Under these circumstances I think that the question hardly arises of restoring Welsh to a position of at least equal importance with that which it has hitherto enjoyed, since the present arrangements clearly tend to the encouragement of a real study of the language and literature of the Principality.

Public Petitions.

MR. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Holmfirth Division of Yorkshire, as Chairman of the Select Committee on Public Petitions, whether the Committee appointed to inspect petitions presented to this House have any means of ascertaining whether signatures not affixed to the particular sheet containing the prayer and substance of the petition are or are not those of persons who are aware to what petition their signatures have been subsequently attached.

*MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): There are no means at present of ascertaining what my hon. friend desires to know. Everything depends on the good faith of those who promote the petitions.

MR. ADKINS: May I ask if the hon. Gentleman will take steps to see that no petitions are sent in which are not actually signed on the paper containing the prayer of the petition?

*MR. H. J. WILSON: I dare say some means could be devised to deal with that. I will bring the matter before the Committee.

MR. ADKINS: Will the Committee investigate the extraordinary phenomena presented by the extensive identity of signatures to the petitions against the Education Bill?

*MR. H. J. WILSON: It is the duty of the officials in the Petitions Office to draw attention to such cases, but if the hon. Member can name specific cases, I will cause inquiry to be made.

Barlinnie Prison Warders' Grievances.

MR. WATT (Glasgow College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware that dissatisfaction exists among the warders of Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow, with reference to hours of duty, especially in regard to attendance at lectures without time allowance being granted, and that a statement of these grievances has been made to the Commissioners with a request that it should be forwarded to the

Secretary for Scotland; will he say whether he received these papers; and, if so, will he say when he received them.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I received the statement in question from the Commissioners on April 25th, and it is now under consideration.

Belfast Illegal Coining Case.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state whether any memorial was presented to the Lords Justices by Crawford prior to his release from prison, after conviction for illegal coining at Belfast, and, if so, what were the terms of the memorial; whether the receipt of the memorial was followed by further investigation on the part of the police authorities; whether the removal of Constable Graham, the degradation of Constable Fraser, and the admonition to District Inspector Clayton were consequent on these investigations, and, if so, on what grounds; and whether there are any other circumstances in connection with the case which he can communicate to the House.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): It is the fact that a memorial was presented by Crawford, as stated in the Question, asking for an inquiry into his case, and an investigation followed, and the persons referred to in the Question were dealt with as mentioned. It has been determined to have an inquiry instituted forthwith into the organisation, discipline, and past and present working of the police force employed in Belfast, and this inquiry will be conducted by Mr. Matthew Bourke, K.C., Mr. Ulick Burke, Resident Magistrate, and Mr. Singleton, Assistant Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary (retired).

Cork County Court Valuer.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Richard Martin, of Little Island, the county court valuer on whose valuation the Recorder of Cork increased, instead of abating, the rent of Michael Hegarty, of Carrignavar, is a relative of the landlord, Mr. Richard Mansergh Martin; and, if so, whether the Land Commission will take steps to prevent the relatives of landlords from again interfering in the fixation of their rents.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Recorder of Cork that in the case referred to the total rent of the three separate holdings of Mr. Hegarty was fixed at £134 10s., as against the previous judicial rent of £140 in respect of the entire holding before it was divided into three. There was, therefore, an abatement and not an increase. The Recorder states that he is wholly unaware whether the court valuer, in whom he has complete confidence, is related to the landlord, and that when the valuer sat with him for the purpose of taking evidence no objection to his doing so was made on the tenants' behalf. The Recorder, however, will give directions that valuers shall not act in cases in which they are related to any of the parties.

Motor Fishing Boats for Ireland.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the character of the Report on the working of the motor fishing boat "Pioneer," purchased by the Congested Districts Board (Scotland), steps will be taken by the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) to get a few such boats for the fishermen on the South and West Coast of Ireland.

MR. BRYCE: The Congested Districts Board have had the Report in question under their consideration. They are not at present prepared to recommend the use of paraffin or petrol motors in the larger fishing boats on the West Coast of Ireland. They understand, however, that the Department of Agriculture have enabled the crew of a small fishing boat to procure a motor, and they will watch the result of the experiment.

Dingle Pier.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a memorial from the Dingle Harbour Board asking for a grant for the extension of the pier; whether he is aware that the district served is all congested, and the most highly rated in all Ireland, and that fishing is the main industry; whether he is aware that, owing to the fact that the pier does not extend sufficiently far into the sea, delay is sometimes caused in landing fish, and loss thereby incurred; and whether, under those circumstances, steps will be taken to have the pier reported on by an engineer from the Board of Works or Congested District Board, and such grant as he considers necessary for its extension given.

MR. BRYCE: I have received the memorial referred to and the Board of Works have favoured me with a Report upon its proposals. In the opinion of the Board's engineer the proposed extension would not effect the desired end. It is a fact that the district of Dingle is congested, and that the charges upon it in respect of railway and harbour guarantees are very high, and I understand that fishing is its main industry. The Congested Districts Board have from time to time considered schemes for the improvement of Dingle harbour, and it was recently decided that the best way of securing this end would be to dredge a channel to the existing pier. This has recently been arranged for by the Dingle Harbour Board, and the Congested Districts Board have made a considerable contribution towards the cost of the work, which is about to be commenced.

Killygordan Evicted Tenants.

MR. MCVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been called to the matter of Thomas Kieve, who was evicted from his holding on the Mansfield Estate, Killygordan, East Donegal, because he declined to pay an increase of rent; and, seeing that a portion of the estate is sold and in the hands of the Estate Commissioners, whether he will request them to reinstate Kieve in his holding, as it is still lying derelict.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the lands in question are not in their hands. They have, however, approached the owner with reference to the case of Thomas Kieve, and have referred Kieve's application to one of their inspectors for inquiry, with a view to effecting a settlement.

Galway Hosiery Factory.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a number of persons interested in the revival of Irish industries and anxious to provide employment for the purpose of retaining the people have started a hosiery factory in Galway; that this has now been operating successfully for some years; whether he is aware that on behalf of these persons an application was made to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland to procure for the advantage of the workers in this factory the services of an instructor in the finer class of hosiery, the local county committee offering to pay half the expenses; and, seeing that this application was rejected by the Department, will he make representations to the Department to comply with this request in order to assist the effort being made in Galway to revive its industries.

MR. BRYCE: I understand that the facts are substantially as stated in the Question. The Technical Instruction Committee for the Urban District of Galway recently applied to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for a special grant for the purpose mentioned. The Department were unable to accede to this application because they had already allocated to the urban district the full amount at their disposal for the purposes of technical instruction in the district. The total annual fund at the disposal of the Galway Technical Instruction Committee is, approximately, £1,000, which includes a local rate of one penny in the pound and a contribution of £680 from the Department's endowment. The Department have pointed out to the local committee that if they wish to aid the industry in question, such aid must be given from the joint fund made up of the Department's contribution and the local rate.

Gethin Estate, County Sligo.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland on what date was the Gethin Estate, at Ballyconnell, Magherow, county Sligo, sold to the Congested Districts Board; has the estate been yet vested in the Board, and, if not, can he say when it will be vested, and can he explain the delay; is he aware that a servant of the Board, named Carroll, has caused annoyance to the tenants on this estate, by obstructing them in the collections of seaweed for manuring their crops, a privilege they enjoyed under their late landlord; and that Carroll prevented a man, named Phelim Moffit, a tenant occupying a one acre holding, from securing grazing for a milch cow on the grazing farm of 800 acres now in the hands of the Board, but still unstripped; and will he, as chairman of the Congested Districts Board, see that operations for improvement and enlargement of holdings on this congested estate are proceeded with at the earliest possible moment.

MR. BRYCE: The date upon which the Congested District Board arranged to purchase this estate was April 6th, 1905. The estate has not yet been vested in the Board by the Estates Commissioners, who have been fully occupied with prior engagements, but it is anticipated that the vesting will be effected in July. The Board have received a complaint against Carroll, and are making inquiry into the matter. As soon as the estate is vested in the Board steps for the rearrangement and enlargement will be taken without delay.

Colonel Malone's Westmeath Estate.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the name of the inspector who visited the estate of Colonel Malone in Westmeath on behalf of the Estates Commissioners, the date of the visit, any explanation of the fact that tenants and others who lodged a memorial with the Commissioners complaining of certain matters and asking the sale to be carried out in accordance with the law, and who were assured that those matters would be investigated on the ground, have not been called upon and have not been able to see the inspector; does this inspector see none but the landlord and his friends in matters in which the tenants are equally concerned; and will the Commissioners stay the sale until the matters raised have really been investigated on the ground.

MR. BRYCE: This Question appears to be asked under a misapprehension of the facts. The Estates Commissioners inform me that two originating applications have been lodged with them in respect of two separate portions of Colonel Malone's estate. The lands comprised in the first application have already been inspected, but these lands do not include the former holdings of certain evicted tenants from whom applications for reinstatement have been received. These holdings are included in the second application, and an inspection of them will shortly take place, when full inquiry from all persons concerned will be made.

Fitzwilliam Estate. Wicklow.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether the whole or any part of the Fitzwilliam estate, in county Wicklow, has been sold under the Act of 1903; if so, what was the extent of the acreage sold; what was the number of the tenants; whether any of the tenants have refused to purchase at the landlord's price; how many years purchase did the landlord demand on first-term and on second-term rents respectively; what was the total amount of the purchase money and the amount of the bonus paid or to be paid to the landlord; and whether there was any inspection for value of the holdings sold.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that 60,422 acres of the estate of Earl Fitzwilliam have been sold to 1,055 tenants under the Land Act of 1903. The Commissioners have no information as to the number of tenants who may have refused to purchase at the landlord's price. The number of years purchase of the rents varied considerably, but generally was:—In the case of rents fixed after August, 1896, between twenty-five and twenty-six years purchase; and in the case of rents fixed before August, 1896, between twenty-two and twenty-three years purchase. The purchase money was £536,016, and the bonus payable to the vendors is 12 per cent. of the amount advanced. In all cases not within the zones, the holdings were duly inspected as to the security for the advances applied for.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of tenants on the Fitzwilliam estate, county Wicklow, who have been proceeded against for arrears of rent between 1st January, 1904, and 15th May, 1906; whether those tenants so proceeded against had refused to purchase their holdings at the landlord's price; and whether they have since submitted to the landlord's terms, and signed agreements to purchase.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no information from which they can furnish the particulars asked for.

Constantine Maguire Estate, County Fermanagh.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state why the tenants on the Constantine Maguire estate, county Fermanagh, whose cases to fix fair rents were heard so far back as December 5th last by a Sub-Commission Court, have not yet been informed of the decisions of the Court; and whether, as rent is now being demanded from the tenants, he will suggest to Messrs. Wade and Hunt, who heard the cases at Enniskillen, that as the holdings were inspected so far back as January last a decision would be of importance to the tenants before they pay rents which may be affected by the decision.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Land Commission that the decisions of the Sub-Commission Court in the cases referred to were announced on the 18th instant, and the results communicated to the parties on the following day.

Cork City Railways.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that on the evidence of the promoters of the Cork City Railways and Works Bill a local contribution of £50,000 is not forthcoming either from private persons or by way of guarantee from public bodies towards the construction of the proposed line for connecting the railways in Cork City; whether the Treasury, in view of this fact, and of the undischarged parliamentary obligations of the Great Western and the Great Southern and Western Railway Companies under the Fishguard and Rosslare Act of 1898, will strictly adhere to the conditions laid down last session, and re-affirmed by them this session, and decline to make any grant of public money, unless £50,000 is found locally, in connection with this Bill; whether the Great Western Railway Company now appears as the principal promoter of this Bill, and has agreed to find part of the £98,000, the estimated cost of construction, and to undertake the management of the proposed new line; whether, as the construction of this line was one of the obligations undertaken by the two companies mentioned in 1898, and that no question of a grant of public money towards the same was then raised by them, their obligation to construct such line with the co-operation and consent of the local bodies and the existing railways in Cork City still remains undischarged; and whether, as they have at length obtained such co-operation and consent in support of the scheme in this Bill, they are now bound to give effect to it without the help of public funds.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): It is true that one of the conditions on which the Treasury were prepared to invite Parliament to contribute £60,000 last session towards a scheme for connecting the railways at Cork by a bridge over the River Lee was that a sum of £50,000 should be forthcoming locally, and that this condition has been reaffirmed during the present session. The local support was not forthcoming and the pledge therefore has lapsed. The scheme last year was calculated to cost £180,000, but this year there is a scheme for building the bridge, which is now under consideration in Committee, involving an expenditure of about £100,000, towards which local contributions to the extent of £25,000 are proposed. Should this scheme be reported by the Committee to be in the best interests of the economic development of the South and South West of Ireland, the Treasury are prepared, subject to the local contributions of £25,000 being obtained and to certain other conditions, to invite Parliament to contribute the sum of £25,000. I believe the Great Western Railway Company are supporting this Bill, but this fact has had nothing to do with the Treasury decision which has been taken solely with a view to encouraging the development of the South and South West of Ireland. Had either of the other two Bills which have been before the House this Session obtained the sanction of the Committee rather than the Bill which the Great Western Railway is supporting, the Treasury would have considered the claims of those Bills in the same way.

MR. POWER: Is it because the Great Western Railway fail to carry out their solemn obligation to the House that they are now to be given this £25,000?

MR. McKENNA: The solemn obligation of the Great Western Railway was to use their best endeavours to obtain the consent and co-operation of the Cork Commissioners for certain work. They have obtained the assent of the Cork Commissioners and they now propose to carry out by this Bill the project to which the hon. Gentleman refers. The co-operation of the Commissioners would not have been given but for the fact of Treasury assistance, and that is the ground of our Act.

MR. POWER: Surely the hon. Gentleman does not maintain that the company are carrying out their obligations.

MR. McKENNA: If the hon. Gentleman will refer to Section 12 of their Act he will find out the promise to have been exactly as I stated.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the Parliamentary obligations accepted by the Great Western and Great Southern and Western Railway Companies in 1898, and of the action of Parliament in reference to the matter in July 1901†, and the decision of a Committee of the House with regard to a similar Bill last session, he will decline to allow a grant of public money for the project in the Cork City Railways and Works Bill which these companies undertook to carry out without such grant; whether he is aware that both these companies are supporting this Bill in the expectation of a grant of public money, while they continue in default as to their obligation to build the Cork and Fermoy direct line, towards which they were to have obtained a grant of £93,000; and whether there is any precedent for making a grant of public money to assist four railway companies to connect their systems for their own benefit.

MR. McKENNA: The proposed grant towards the scheme for a connection between the Railways of Cork does not relieve the companies from their obligation to construct the Cork to Fermoy line. The grant is not made to assist the railway companies to connect their system for their own benefit, but in order to secure the carrying out of a scheme in the general interests of railway communication in the South of Ireland, which there was reason to believe could not be carried out without Government assistance.

MR. POWER: May I ask the hon. Gentleman in connection with this Question whether on July 19th, 1901‡, the then Prime Minister said that the Treasury had not the power, nor if they had would they exercise it, to sanction any escape from the Parliamentary obligations which had been entered into.

MR. McKENNA: Yes, Sir, the Treasury was then bound up to 1903 for the building of the Fermoy line, but the power to build the line expired in 1905, and when that power did expire the Treasury were no longer under any obligation to allot the £92,000 for that purpose.

Duties Paid by Ireland.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he will state the amount respectively of tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, spirits, beer, wine, tobacco and snuff consumed in Ireland during the year ending 31st March, 1906, giving also the amount of duty payable on each.

MR. McKENNA: A statement is being prepared and a copy of it will be sent to the hon. Member. Perhaps he will excuse the Chancellor of the Exchequer from reading out the figures in the House, as they are rather lengthy.

Committals for Contempt of Court.

MR. P. A. McHUGH: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government propose to introduce legislation amending the laws relating to committals for contempt of Court; and whether he can state approximately when such legislation will be introduced.

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† See (4) *Debates*, xcvii., 856.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, xcvii., 856.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I am afraid I cannot give a pledge as to the introduction of legislation for amending the laws relating to committals for contempt of Court, but, as the hon. Member is aware, my right hon. friend the Attorney-General for Ireland has admitted that there is a case for legislation, and I can assure him that the Government will not lose sight of the matter.

Electoral Corruption.

*MR. S. COLLINS (Lambeth, Kennington): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, considering the nature of much of the evidence revealed at the recent trials, in connection with the Yarmouth and Maidstone elections, will the Government take an early opportunity to bring in a Bill to so alter the Corrupt Practices Act that it may become more effectual in securing purity of elections.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am quite aware that the Corrupt Practices Act has been the subject recently of a good deal of depreciatory comment, and it is not surprising if, after so many years experience, it may require considerable amendment; but I do not think any step can be taken this session.

The D'Angely Case.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the terms of reference to the Royal Commission in connection with the D'Angely case will cover the payment of compensation; and has any apology been or will the same be made to Madame D'Angely and her friends.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It will be open to the Commissioners, after hearing the evidence, to make any recommendation with regard to the D'Angely case that they may think proper.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) asked whether steps would be taken to ensure the presence of Madame D'Angely before the Royal Commission, and that she should give evidence on oath.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not aware. I have taken no steps.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the indignation expressed through France at the reluctance of the defaulting authorities to apologise in the D'Angely case in view of the fact that the lady insulted is a French subject, and the importance attached to a continuance of the friendly relations between these countries will this situation be immediately dealt with.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: We have received no information tending to show that the feeling of indignation alleged in the Question to exist in France has been created, nor has anything occurred at all likely to affect prejudicially the friendly relations of the two countries.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: Had this lady to leave the country because of the treatment extended to her?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not aware of anything of the sort.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Is it true that the Metropolitan police have been making inquiries of the Paris police as to Madame D'Angely?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Does the noble Lord think that I am aware of all that is done by the Metropolitan police? The noble Lord abuses his powers of interrogation. A Question is asked me as to a supposed state of indignation in France, and the noble Lord proceeds to ask me what the police are doing.

LORD R. CECIL: I am sorry that I have discomposed the Prime Minister. Probably he will view my offence with a more lenient eye when I point out that I have put a Question on the Paper to the Home Secretary, but not for oral answer. I thought that possibly one Cabinet Minister might have communicated with another.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): May I ask whether this lady has not gone away for the good of her health?

[No Answer was returned.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had nominated the following fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]: Mr. Vivian, Mr. Nield, Mr. Hay, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Barran, Mr. Raphael, Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. C. E. Price, Mr. Charles Nicholson, Mr. Higham, Mr. Charles Duncan, Mr. R. C. Lehmann, Mr. Emmott Barlow, Mr. Hugh Law, and Mr. W. G. Nicholson.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported; That they had nominated the following fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Open Spaces Bill: Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. H. W. Lever, Mr. W. Pearce, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Channing, Mr. C. H. Wilson, Mr. Osmond Williams, Mr. Alexander Cross, Viscount Castlereagh, Mr. George Bowles, Mr. James Parker, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Roche, Mr. Howell Davies, and Mr. John Ainsworth.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported; That they had nominated the following fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. H. W. Lever, Mr. W. Pearce, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Channing, Mr. C. H. Wilson, Mr. Osmond Williams, Mr. Alexander Cross, Viscount Castlereagh, Mr. George Bowles, Mr. James Parker, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Roche, Mr. Howell Davies, and Mr. John Ainsworth.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill: Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Howell Davies.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Dogs Bill: Colonel Kenyon-Slaney; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Percy Thornton.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 227.]

PILOTAGE BILL.

Order for Second Reading upon Friday next read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

NEW BILLS.

ADVERTISEMENT REGULATION BILL.

"To authorise local authorities to make by-laws respecting the exhibition of Advertisements," presented by Mr. Hart-Davies,; supported by Mr. Wyndham, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir Edward Clarke, Mr. Charles Schwann, Mr. Butcher, Mr. MacNeill, and Mr. Beale; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 224.]

LICENSING ACT (1902) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend and extend the Licensing Act, 1902," presented by Mr. Stanley Wilson; supported by Lord Robert Cecil; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th June, and to be printed. [Bill 225.]

DUBLIN CIVIL BILL COURT AMENDMENT BILL.

"To improve the procedure of the Civil Bill Court of the city and county of Dublin," presented by Mr. Healy; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 226.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) moved an Amendment to Clause 1 to add to the words fixing the date of the coming into operation of the Bill, the following: "or such other later date as the local education authority may determine." He said his Amendment embodied the principle of local option, a principle which ran through a great many clauses of the Bill, and he thought the Government should look upon it with favour because it endeavoured to carry that principle further. The local education authority had under the Bill grave and heavy responsibilities thrown upon it, and it seemed to him that the least the Government could do would be to give it some say in the question as to when the Act should come into operation. The Act required ample time for consideration both on the part of the education authorities and electors, and a year and three months was a hopelessly short period in which to consider the matter. The question as to when the Act should come into force was obviously one for local option and not for the Committee to decide. Let them consider what the procedure under this Bill would be. In the first place there would be the election to decide what the mandate was for the local education authority to carry out. Then after they had received their mandate, they would have to decide upon their line of policy. Having decided that, they would have to carry out intricate negotiations with the trustees of voluntary schools for the taking over of those schools. They would have to decide what the rent was to be and the conditions under which they would proceed. Then they would have to consider petitions under Clause 4 and hold a public inquiry in the case of nearly every voluntary school in the authority's area, which in a county like Lancashire would involve something like 600 or 700 inquiries. It was impossible for the Education Authorities to know how long such inquiries would take. Then, again, in the case of Roman Catholic schools it might be that the teachers would refuse to continue to serve in the schools after the education authority had taken them over, and that would mean the appointment of a new staff of teachers and further delay.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'eight,' to insert the words 'or such other later date as the local education authority may determine.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) objected that the Amendment was out of order, because a similar proposition had been decided the previous day on an Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN replied that he had considered that point and had come to the decision that the Amendment at present before the Committee was in order, as it sought to give the decision to the local authority alone instead of to the Board of Education on the instigation of the local authority.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.) said he wished to offer a word of congratulation to the Member who had moved the Amendment, upon having found a fresh argument on the point. It was not very often so much was said on the Opposition side of the House in praise of local option. They, however, on the Ministerial side of the House were all of opinion that to introduce local option in this matter would be a great mistake. Nothing could be worse than uncertainty about the date on which the Act would come into operation, and he hoped the hon. Member would not press the point unduly. There was a provision in Clause 10 of the Bill which would meet cases of difficulty.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) thought the hon. Gentleman who had just addressed the Committee must have listened with imperfect attention the previous evening to the speeches of the President of the Board of Education, because the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill admitted that there was a difficulty in regard to these dates, and that it might be necessary to fix a later date. He hoped that when the Amendment of the hon. Member for Basingstoke came on, leaving it to His Majesty in Council to determine such later date, a more favourable answer would be given than any one had yet succeeded in extracting from the Government. He did not know that it would be any good pressing the present Amendment, but if his hon. friend went to a division he should vote with him.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said an Amendment such as the one before them gave some chance of making provision where real hardships existed. The Bill dealt with the question as though a grievance existed everywhere all over England. It treated England and Wales as if they were chess boards, all white or all black as the case might be, without any chance whatever of elasticity. There were, however, a great many parishes all over the country in which no grievance whatever existed. In such cases, he asked, why intervene? Were they going to scatter their million of largesse all over the country whether it were wanted or not? How was the million of money to be distributed? Had that not an important bearing upon the Amendment? There were provisions in the case of England where, if Nonconformists had a grievance, the local authority should intervene and give them some of the money. That was all right, but in cases where the parties were provided for why should his money, for it was Irish money as well as English and Scottish, be given away without any necessity? For this reason he regarded the Amendment favourably. He might be wrong, but he did say that the Government did not appreciate the effect of their own Bill. The Bill was imposed upon the Government and the House of Commons by a small fanatical section of the country, and admittedly a grievance existed in a small geographical area only. Yet they were passing the Bill as if the grievance was a general thing! Why should they not have the right to say, whether they were Wesleyan, Nonconformist, or Protestant, that they were getting on fairly well and were fairly provided for, and therefore they would prefer to control themselves? That was all the Amendment proposed; it was an Amendment which provided that the Bill should not come into operation until the local authority asked for it, and surely the local authority was the best judge of the medicine which the patient needed. He hoped the Government would give the Amendment much more consideration than they had seemed disposed to do.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) said he understood that the hon. and learned Member who had just spoken was averse from imposing on every parish in the kingdom a scheme which might be suitable for some places and unsuitable for others, and would allow a much larger local option than apparently the Government had been inclined to allow. If he had rightly understood the hon. and learned Member, he most thoroughly agreed with him. He hoped that even if now the discussion on that point was not carried much further, the Committee would have an opportunity later on, by some Amendment directly raising the issue, of discussing and deciding upon the point. Assuming that the Bill was right as it stood, he asked whether the Government had allowed themselves enough time to carry it through. He had never seen a measure so complicated and as to which it was so difficult to come to a conclusion as to what would exactly happen under it. In this point of practical operation it seemed clear that the Government themselves did not understand the Bill. Their answers to the inquiries which had been made had been totally irrelevant and had not met practical difficulties. They had been very short answers, and he really thought it would be advisable to spend a little more time upon this stage. It was evident to all the Committee what was the position of the majority on the other side. They came to the House—new men, most of them—and said, "Here we are, 350; cannot we have our way? Are we not all-powerful? There is a miserable minority which actually asks questions, requires explanations, and demands discussion. Was anything so intolerable ever heard of? The rights of minorities we have for many years consistently promoted and supported; but we never intended for a moment to admit that that included the right of free discussion." He quite understood that position. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were, many of them, new to the procedure of the House, and they were very much mistaken—very young, indeed, in Parliamentary life—if they thought any action of that kind would be to the advantage of the Bill. [AN HON MEMBER: You cannot bully us.] That was true. He could not bully hon. Members and they could not bully him. He would set forth his view of the action which would be taken under this Bill. He would assume that the Bill was passed as it stood, say, on September 30th in the present year. Then there would be three months to January 1st, 1907, during which Parliamentary agreements might be made between the owners and trustees of voluntary schools and the local education authority. He understood that there were 14,000 of these schools, in which case there would be 14,000 agreements to be made. Those agreements might be infinitely varied—there might be the ordinary agreement contemplated, perhaps desired, by the promoters of the measure; there was an agreement possible under Clause 3, relating to what were called ordinary facilities; and there was a separate series of agreements which might be made under Clause 4, relating to extended facilities. With the best will there must be difficulty in making voluntary agreements in three months for 14,000 schools. He took it for granted that the hope of the Government had been that their proposals would be taken as conciliatory proposals, and would be satisfactory to a great number of those who were concerned in denominational education. Surely there could no longer be a shadow of belief in the minds of the Government or any of their supporters that they had succeeded. It was perfectly clear—he was not saying whether it was right or wrong—that the vast majority of those interested in denominational teaching, whether Jews, Catholics, Wesleyans, Anglicans, or members of other bodies—were opposed to the Bill in its present shape. [Cries of "No."] Surely it was absurd to deny that. It was absolutely certain that the vast majority were opposed to this Bill as it stood. That being so, let them see how it increased the difficulty of these voluntary agreements. These schools—the Catholic and the Anglican schools for instance—were, after all, very fairly organised. To his mind it was not conceivable that 14,000 schools, or any appreciable fraction of them, could take advantage in the three months between the passing of the Bill and January 1st, 1907, to make any agreement. What was to happen between January 1st, 1907, and January 1st, 1908, which was the second period? He took it that the local education authorities, finding that they might appeal to a Commission, but were not bound to do so, would endeavour still to come to an agreement before they appealed to the Commission, and a certain period of 1907 would be occupied in that way. How much time would they give for that? He thought that in three months the local education authority ought to have become aware whether an agreement such as they would accept was possible or not. Then they had nine months left in 1907, during which period the local authorities might present applications to the Commissioners to make schemes for all that remained of the 14,000 schools. Was ever anything more absurd presented to a business House of Commons? He appealed to anyone who had had any experience of the framing of schemes by any Government authority or by any judicial tribunal. He appealed to those who had been acquainted with the formation of schemes under the Endowed Schools Act whether they thought that three men were to go up and down the country holding public inquiries in the case of 14,000 schools more or less, and that they could accomplish that work in nine months. He could not think that the Government had considered the absolute necessity of great elasticity. The whole thing would be a ridiculous fiasco if they confined themselves to these dates, from a desire to meet the impatience of some of their supporters, who apparently were anxious that there should be no discussion of an Amendment and no alteration of any line of the Bill. This brought them to January 1st, 1908, when, according to Clause 1, all voluntary schools must come under the public school system or must cease to have any kind of assistance, either from rates or taxes. The hon. Member for North Camberwell last night said, "Oh! you have Subsection 2 of Clause 10."

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I first of all referred to Sub-section 6 of Clause 9.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Last night the hon. Member rested himself on Subsection 2 of Clause 10.

DR. MACNAMARA: I think not. I first of all referred to Sub-section 6 of Clause 9.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Oh! Yes; the hon. Member now brings to his assistance——

DR. MACNAMARA: And then.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member brings to his assistance now——

DR. MACNAMARA: And then.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to imply that my hon. friend is stating that which is not true? My hon. friend has repeated what he said last night, and then the right hon. Gentleman by the way he emphasised the word "now" seems to imply that my hon. friend did not bring the clause referred to to his assistance last night.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I make no imputation whatever upon the veracity of the hon. Member for North Camberwell. He says, and I did not think it necessary to refer to it, that last night he mentioned this sub-section, and I said he brought it to his assistance now. I suppose he does bring it to his assistance now.

DR. MACNAMARA: And then.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Gentleman does bring it to his assistance now.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is a small matter, but I think the right hon. Gentleman who does not wish to make seriously any imputation, should modify his language. He does make an imputation, his emphasis on the word "now" excluding the idea of its having been done then.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I said in language which cannot be mistaken—[MINISTERIAL cries of "Withdraw."] Who wishes me to withdraw the language I have just used? I have not the slightest intention, and never had, of imputing any lack of veracity to the hon. Member for North Camberwell. I am not going to be lessoned by the right hon. Gentleman who has come most unnecessarily to the assistance of an hon. Gentleman well able to defend himself, and whose interference I regard as entirely impertinent.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I rise to order. I wish to know whether it is Parliamentary language to say that the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister is impertinent.

THE CHAIRMAN: I should have called the right hon. Gentleman to order if I considered that he had transgressed the bounds of Parliamentary order.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN asked the Committee to allow him to dismiss from his mind and to dismiss from theirs the incident that had taken place, and to go back to the plain, simple argument which he was addressing to them. He had completed his review of what was possible up to January 1st, 1908. Then there came Clause 10, Sub-section 2.

DR. MACNAMARA: Clause 9, Sub-section 6.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he was not talking of the hon. Member. Clause 10, Sub-section 2, said practically if no arrangement had been come to with the voluntary schools by the end of 1908, the local education authority had a right to use the school without payment, subject to the same religious instruction being given as before, and also to the employment of the same teachers to give that instruction. In other words the school was to be continued as a denominational school, but under the control of the local authority for a limited period from 1908 to 1909. That, of course, did allow of a transition period, but twelve months was entirely insufficient. They could not count on being able during that period to make arrangements with all these 14,000 schools. The prolongation of the Commission by another Bill did not touch the question of the number of schools which in 1908 must cease to be voluntary schools. If they were to agree that, so long as the Commission was prolonged, the whole matter should be held up, then the answer to the hon. Member for North Camberwell would appear to be sufficient, but to have the Commission going on, while the schools were to cease to be voluntary schools, was no settlement whatever of the practical difficulty. There was one other point. Clause 8 provided that the Commission might make a scheme in accordance with certain conditions with regard to the trusts of the school house in future. Sub-section (b) provided that if the Commission were of opinion that the use of the school house for the purposes of a public elementary school by the local authority was the best mode of giving effect to the trusts, they might by their scheme make provision for the purpose, subject to such conditions as to payment or other matters as might be agreed to by the local authority. What was to happen if the local authority did not agree? Here was a Commission which had held a public inquiry and had examined into the wishes of the parents and other matters and had given its decision that a school was to be taken over on the payment of a fixed sum and on certain other conditions. Suppose the local authority had to pay £1,000 and refused to do it, the scheme would fall to the ground. There was no provision to meet that case. The proposition in the Bill was most one-sided, because the trustees had no option whatever. They must accept what the Commission arranged for them, while the education authority might refuse, and so long as they were animated by the spirit which appeared to animate so largely this Committee they would refuse, to pay any sum whatever for any of these schools. Here was a new difficulty, and yet in Clause 1 the Government made a statutory provison that in no case should these schools remain voluntary schools. Surely it would be wise to allow much greater elasticity and to consider the possibility of a much longer period before the final transfer took place. He hoped he had said nothing which in any way was calculated to offend any susceptibilities, and he trusted that under the circumstances the right hon. Gentleman would give him a full reply.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said that, as he understood the Bill, the whole of the three months between September, 30, 1906, and January, 1907, and also the whole period of time down to January 1, 1908, was open to all authorities to come to terms as speedily as they could with the voluntary schools. They were all well acquainted with the voluntary schools—some of them too well. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh."] He was speaking of their sanitary arrangements, and not making any reflection on their teaching. The local authorities were, at all events, well acquainted with the schools within their areas, and he had no doubt that even by this time they had formed a pretty good idea as to which schools they would require for the purposes of public elementary education. It was of extreme importance that they should know as soon as possible what schools they could obtain. Therefore it was necessary to arrange a reasonably short space of time, and the Bill provided that the Commission should open its inquiry some time in 1907. That did not limit free negotiation between the local authority and the owners of these schools. It simply enabled the Commission to get to work as soon as possible. As to Clause 10, that clause really did nothing more than the Act of 1902 did, under which the local authority had control over secular education, but not over the appointment of teachers. This clause provided that where a bargain was not struck the school should pass to the local authority, but the religious teaching should go on as before, so that if the parties went before the Commissioners and no bargain was struck there would be no breach in the religious teaching, which would not be in any way affected. Therefore, for the purpose of bargaining between the parties, the period of fifteen months allowed was ample; and as to the extension of time to January 1, 1909, the time would be ample also to deal with such cases as came before the Commission Court. He believed the times fixed were ample for the purposes of the Bill.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he supported the Amendment of the hon. Member for Blackpool because it would give local authorities who were satisfied with the present condition of things the power to go on as they were now. He supported the Amendment in that for genuine reasons and he could give the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education a case in point. He had the honour to represent a city in which the Act of 1902 had been administered with very great success. It had been a success because both political Parties, as soon as the Act became law, made up their minds that they would sink all religious and political differences and work the Act for the benefit of the children. They had done that not only in the elementary schools, but in a very great extension that had been made on the lines of secondary education. A large grammar school and a training college had been founded and altogether the Act was proceeding smoothly, and they wished to be let alone. This was a reason why local authorities should have some discretion in the matter. The last report of the education committee in his town said that cordial relations had been maintained between the committee and the managers of non-provided schools, and the result of their hearty co-operation had been distinctly beneficial to the general interests of education. Why could not that condition of things be allowed to continue. If the local authority were of opinion that the Act was working smoothly, and that there were no religious difficulties, because the relations between the local authority and the managers of the non-provided schools were most cordial, he earnestly commended that to the right hon. Gentleman as a reason for accepting the Amendment, and for letting things go on as they were.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Dover) who rose amid cries of "Divide," said he only wished to say one word on the larger question raised by the Amendment. Under that proposal the local authority would have not only a suspensory power but also a great squeezing power, because they might come to the owners of the non-provided schools and say, "unless you remove all these grievances down comes this Act of Parliament upon you." He recommended that point of view to hon. Members opposite who had talked so much of popular control.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said that this Amendment raised one of the most important points in the Bill, and he thought the Committee were quite entitled to know whether the Government agreed with the policy advocated by the hon. Member. No reply had yet been made to the contention that it was desirable to give some liberty to the local authorities to contract themselves out of the Act. The question was of very considerable magnitude, and of much interest. One hon. Member had said that he was surprised to hear anyone on the Opposition Benches advocating local option. It was very easy to use the phrase "local option" as indicating a principle; but no one was entitled to use it as applying to only one particular form of local option. The real truth was that there was a good deal to be said for the principle of local option. This Bill was full of local option. The whole of the religious welfare of the country was to be determined by the particular syllabuses which the local authorities made each school adopt. Then the question whether extended facilities were to be given to particular schools was to be left to the local authorities; and it was only carrying the matter one step further to say in this Bill that these facilities should come into operation or not in their districts. The hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield had said that the present system was in full operation in the city he represented; but in vast tracks of the country the operation of the present system of religious teaching was satisfactory. There was no opposition to it; no religious difficulty. The people were perfectly happy under the existing system. [MINISTERIAL ironical laughter.] He could quite believe that some hon. Members opposite might regard that as a surprising observation, but if they went about the country with an unprejudiced mind they would see for themselves the fairness of the observation. This Bill would inevitably stir up religious strife in every local election. He therefore ventured to hope that the Government would give the Committee some answer to the question put by the hon. and learned Member for Louth.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that as he understood the Amendment it would have the effect of giving local option to any authority in the country to postpone indefinitely the operation of the Bill, and a local education authority could fix a date fifty or 100 years hence before it came into operation. Therefore the effect of the Amendment was to introduce the principle of local option into the Bill. In the shape in which that principle was introduced here it might possibly come to the rescue of some of the Anglican schools in the country, but the Catholic schools would be left outside its scope, because could anybody suppose that all the urban districts of the country would not proceed to put the Act in force in country towns? Therefore, as far as the Catholic schools were concerned, it would afford them no protection at all. More than that, when they came to Clause 4, which dealt with extended facilities and was based upon local option, they intended in order to protect their schools to argue against it. Many of the speakers in the debate seemed inclined to use the provisions of the Bill as a political weapon without any regard to Catholic schools, and in discussing public control they seemed to look upon denominational schools merely as objects of political warfare across the floor of this House. Were they to be dragged into supporting an Amendment which set up the principle of local option as a guiding principle of the Bill and which if adopted would not protect a single Roman Catholic school in this country? This debate had consumed much valuable time which should have been devoted to considering some of the great principles of the Bill which there was some chance of passing. He thought the time spent upon this Amendment had been largely wasted. There was no chance of passing it, but it had furnished some extremists on the other side with a weapon which they would use against them on Clause 4. He could not see a single argument in favour of the Amendment, but he believed in the view put forward by the Leader of the Opposition that there was a strong case for more time to consider and carry out this arrangement. That point, however, was down for consideration in an Amendment by the hon. Member for Basingstoke, and that was one which when they came to it he should strongly urge the Government to accept. That Amendment provided that the Bill should come into operation on the day named or at such later date as His Majesty in Council might determine. He would only say that in his judgment the Government made a great mistake in not accepting the Amendment which they disposed of the previous night, under which the postponement had to be a reasonable one, because it could only take place with the consent of the Education Department itself. He was utterly unable to support this Amendment.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said he would not support this Amendment for a moment if he thought it would put the Roman Catholic schools in a worse position than they were now. If it were carried every local authority which desired to maintain the *status quo* under the Act of 1902 would be enabled to do so, and he thought it would be admitted that the Act of 1902 was more favourable to Roman Catholics than the Bill in its present form. Under the Amendment the Roman Catholic schools throughout the country where local option was used would be in the favourable position in which they were left under the Act of 1902, and when they came to Clause 4 of the Bill he should endeavour to amend it so as to make it mandatory in order that the present conditions might be preserved as far as possible. He thought the Minister for Education would admit that any Bill of this character meant disturbance to our educational institutions throughout the country. It was not merely the religious question and the fear that religious teaching would be endangered in the schools in which it had been maintained, but there was a practical disturbance which resulted in hesitation in regard to the reconstruction or enlargement of schools in consequence of the uncertainty prevailing as to what might follow the undertaking of that work, and that would mean, as they knew from the experience of the Act of 1902, the dislocation of such efforts and of the work of local authorities throughout the country. He should like to know whether the Secretary of the Board of Education had given himself time or opportunity to ascertain how the Bill of 1902 was working throughout the country. The hon. Gentleman had not been very long in office, and he ventured to think that he had hardly allowed himself the opportunity of ascertaining in how many districts of the country there was any difficulty whatever occasioned by the working of the Act of 1902. They knew perfectly well on the high authority of the teachers themselves that in the schools there was no religious difficulty. They knew very well that the local education authorities in our great towns and in many of our great counties had addressed themselves to the work of education seriously, vigorously, and with admirable effect, and all this was to be disturbed by the introduction of religious difficulties again under the operation of this Bill. Had the President of the Board of Education asked himself what part of the United Kingdom was injuriously affected by the Act of 1902? ["Oh."] Hon. Members opposite appeared to him to be vocal merely for the purposes of interruption.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) inquired, as a matter of order, whether it was open to the hon. Baronet to discuss the working of the Education Act of 1902 throughout the country on the question of when the present Bill should come into force.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he was listening to the hon. Member, and suggested that it might be better if he had not so much advice.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the interruption of the hon. Member was itself singularly irrelevant. If hon. Members disputed that the Act of 1902 was working smoothly throughout the country perhaps they would rise in their places and say so.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Baronet was travelling rather far afield in challenging hon, Members to discuss the working of the 1902 Act in detail.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the point he was putting which he thought had been ruled to be in order was whether the local education authority should allow the Act of 1902 to remain in operation. He submitted that from that point of view the discussion of the operation of the Act of 1902 was in order upon the question of the postponement of the operation of this Bill if it became law. No doubt there were disturbed areas in which the Act of 1902 had not worked smoothly, but that arose not from religious but from political differences introduced by hon. Members in order to disturb the working of that great measure. He contended that they should not dissipate the energies of the local authorities by exciting religious difficulties, and thus dislocate educational effort. If local authorities were satisfied with things as they were they should be allowed to say so, and to exercise the option offered by the Amendment.

MR. ASHLEY disputed the assertion that the Amendment would not benefit a single Roman Catholic school. In Lancashire the Roman Catholics, the Church of England, and other religious bodies had worked together and were working together under the Act of 1902. He wished the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would give them some idea of the working of the local option proposed.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he had not intended to address the Committee again, and should not have done so except for the speech of the hon. Member for East Mayo, which was a side-attack on himself. He wished to assure the hon. Member that he did not pay the smallest attention to anything he said either in the House or out of it, that no appeal could be made to him that would affect his action in the matter, and that any such appeal would be thrown away. He had formed the opinion that this Amendment was one of the most valuable that had been proposed from the Catholic point of view, and he observed that no member of the Government had been able to answer the points that had been made in its favour. He knew there were hon. members of the Irish Party who were more Ministerialist than Ministers, and strange to say those who were so anxious to save the time of the Committee were those who were supposed to be extremely anxious in the interests of religious education and not the avowed secularists on the opposite side of the House. He therefore thanked the Government and the members of the Ministerialist Party for the patience with which they had listened to the arguments addressed to them, which he thought had been in strong contrast to the attitude of hon. Gentlemen beside him.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 114; Noes, 406. (Division List No. 89).

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Anson,Sir WilliamReynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt Hn Hugh O.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHn.A.J.(City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beach,Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish,Rt.Hon. VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J.(Birm.)
Clarke, Sir Edward (CityLond.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(KentAshford)
Harrison, Broadley, Col. H. B.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW.)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
O'Brien, William (Cork)
Parker Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith,F. E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Stanley, Hn.Arthur (Ormskirk)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker,Col.W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Ashley and Mr. Samuel Roberts,

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Jn. Williams (Devonport
Benn,W.(T'wrHamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell,J.H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs. Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen)
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.

Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWmJ.(S.Pancras,W.)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, M. (Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col.Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarndon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
LeverA Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C.B.(Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H.Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert

Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke)
Philipps, Owen, C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Risdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spirer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin, (East Toxeth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley (Southampt'n
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke, (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wiilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord (Norfolk,Mid)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Huddersfi'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke) said he understood that if he moved his Amendment in a temperate manner and did not place any undue emphasis upon any particular word, he might achieve the distinction of moving the first Amendment which the Government would accept. He had placed this Amendment on the Paper in consequence of the unsatisfactory and inconclusive result of the debate yesterday on the Motion moved by the hon. Baronet the Member for Oxford University. The difficulty which they had to face was that Clause 7 would come into operation before the Commission had concluded their labours. It was quite true, as was pointed out by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, that this Bill made some sort of provision for that contingency in Clause 9, but it should not be forgotten that these schools might be swept away before their future had been settled. Then again, Clause 10 only made a temporary provision, and did not meet any large number of cases. If during the transition period a new teacher was to be appointed it would have to be done by the local authority, and they could not ask any questions with regard to the religion to be taught. That showed them that Clause 10 was not intended to meet this case. It would not be right for this clause to come into operation until the Commission had settled the future of these schools. He assumed that the Commission would be a judicial body and would carry out its functions in accordance with the principles of the High Courts of Justice. If so, it would have to give patient, impartial, and separate consideration to each case. The Commission would have to take into account local feelings and desires, and consider the terms of the trust deeds. The Bill appeared to contemplate a kind of triangular friendly arrangement between the managers of the schools, the Commission, and the local authorities. He thought it would be agreed that it would be a fair estimate to say that the Commission would not be able to deal with more than one case in a day. There were roughly 8,000 schools under trusts belonging to the Church of England, and if the Commission dealt with one each day and worked five days a week for ten months in the year it would take them forty years to complete their labours; and if they worked six days a week and took no holidays it would take about thirty-six years. He suggested to the Committee that there really was no practical sensible objection to this proposal, and he hoped the Government would be able to accept it.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'eight' to insert the words 'or such other later date as His Majesty in Council may determine.'"—(*Mr. Clavell Salter.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. BIRRELL said he understood from the speech they had just heard that it was quite a friendly Amendment to help the Government out of a difficulty. He had already expressed his opinion upon this proposal. He did not think that the Government had taken too sanguine a view. The hon. and learned Member for Basingstoke contemplated forty years as a not extravagant estimate of the length of time it would take this Commission to get through its labours. If the Government had taken any such view as that they would not have put forward this proposal in the form they had done. They believed business would be transacted much more rapidly. Lord Westbury and Lord Cairns, he remembered, presided over a court in which they disposed of cases in connection with insurance companies, where it was necessary to proceed by classification and determine them in classes, and they certainly got through a great deal of work in a comparatively short time. He did not think this clause was the proper place for the consideration of any Amendment of the sort proposed, and when they came to Clause 8 the Government would have no objection to proper consideration being given to the possibilities which had been suggested.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said there was considerable inconvenience in having a clause at the beginning of a measure which was not in full harmony with a clause which it was proposed to amend later on. The right hon. Gentleman almost made his mouth water when he described the rapidity with which judges could get through their business. That would rather imply that the complaints they used to hear from the law courts were without foundation. The right hon. Gentleman did not deny that the calculations of the Government might be mistaken and that it might be necessary to make some alteration, but he suggested that the proper place to make the alteration was in Clause 8 or Clause 10. If they passed Clause 1 as it stood and confined their amending zeal to Clauses 8 and 10 they would leave a discrepancy between the earlier and the later parts of the Bill. Unless the President of the Board of Education thought that the actual substance of the Amendment was wrong and that the machinery of the Bill was right surely this and this only was the only place in which they could demand that elasticity which ought to govern the whole Bill. At least he thought the right hon. Gentleman ought to tell them why a later clause was the best place to introduce this change.

Sir E. CARSON remarked that what the President of the Board of Education proposed was to extend the time in which the Commissioners might act on a later clause of the Bill. That might extend their time and they might go on making schemes, but before these schemes were made the schools would have become provided schools. That was the very thing that those on his side of the House objected to, that these schools should become provided schools before the terms were settled by the Commission. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman would not deny that, no matter what extension of time was given to the Commissioners in the later clauses of the Bill, if Clause 1 were passed in its present state, on a particular date mentioned in the clause all schools not then dealt with would cease to be recognised as public elementary schools. That meant that the Board of Education would wash their hands of a school, though at some future date the Commissioners by a further extension of time might settle the terms under which it might come back to something like its original position after the mutilation of the religious teaching. He could not understand why the right hon. Gentleman persisted in refusing this class of Amendment. They could forgive him for refusing last night to have any confidence in the Education Department, but why did he object to this power of the King in Council? What did it mean? It only meant that the Government—his own Government in Council—should advise His Majesty if they thought proper—the united wisdom of the greatest Cabinet with the greatest majority that ever existed. What really was at the root of the matter? There must be something more than mere objection to the Amendment that had been put forward, for if the whole thing was left to the discretion of the Government, what was the reason that this power should not be given? The truth of the matter was that the Government wanted to use compulsion towards the Commission and towards the voluntary schools. They did not want to leave time; they wanted to hurry on the matter in such a way that they might say, "if you do not come to terms at once and quickly—not one, or two, or ten cases a day, but a hundred cases a day—if you do not come to terms then you are left out altogether, and we will build other schools at the public expense." What was the next thing? The President of the Board of Education had asked the Committee to consider how Lord Cairns and others had done special work expeditiously by classification. Hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House objected to trusts for denominational purposes being classified and put on general terms. Each school had a perfect right to have its own case investigated and its own value determined. If the Government were really in earnest in trying to make progress with this Bill and to come to a fair agreement then this was exactly the kind of Amendment they could not object to. The Amendment did not take anything from them; it left the whole power with them; and it was for the ulterior reasons which he had ventured to suggest that he believed the Government refused to accept the Amendment.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) remarked that the right hon. Gentleman had said truly that here was a case in which the Opposition were pressing on the Government an addition to their powers, and he had expressed astonishment that the Government did not jump at the opportunity of increasing their control. It was perfectly obvious that if the Government thought the power was necessary they would not refuse it. But let them consider whether it was necessary or not. The difficulty suggested was that the Commission might be blocked by the great number of cases—cases which the right hon. Gentleman had just told them might be incapable even of classification. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had scarcely considered the business aspect of the Commissioners' work. Of course the cases that would come before the Commission would be amply capable of classification. As a rule these trusts fell into several well-defined forms, and a few decisions would facilitate the settlement of hundreds if not thousands of cases. Then there would be a number of details left over which would have to be considered apart from the general character of the trusts. But these very details would fall under well-defined principles. The notion that this Commission would have to sit for forty or thirty-six years was a fantastic idea. Even if it were supposed that the Commission might find itself blocked, what was the best part of the Bill to deal with the difficulty? Surely that part which related to the powers, constitution, and duties of the Commission. They could then adopt some proper form of word.

dealing with the case of schools, the schemes of which were not settled before the period appointed by Clause 1. There was nothing inconsistent or illogical in making in Clause 8 or Clause 10 some exception or provision with regard to Clause 1. The Opposition appeared to think that there must be some rigid iron logic which after having once passed Clause 1 made it impossible to make provisions with regard to this clause. In some senses the whole of the succeeding Bill might be regarded as a provision or modification of Clause 1. There was nothing at all impracticable or impossible in saying that when they came to deal with the work of the Commission they might make such provision as would meet difficulties which arose.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) asked whether the Amendment which the right hon. Gentleman said might be moved on Clause 8 or Clause 10 affected the operation of the date mentioned in Clause 1. That was the point. In Clause 1 the maximum penalty was mentioned, but if through no fault of the owners of the schools no arrangement was come to with the local authority before January 1st 1908, what was to be done if that penalty was not to be inflicted.

*LORD MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) appealed to the right hon. Gentleman on behalf of the local authorities who would have to work the Act. The right hon. Gentleman had said that although he hoped they would have time to do the work he did not himself expect it. He thought that was the meaning of the words used by the right hon. Gentleman the other night. The President of the Board of Education had been long enough in office to know that whatever might be the merits of local authorities quickness was not one of them. The local authorities had to consult committees which could not meet from day to day as this House did, and they had to meet the owners of voluntary schools, who were, generally speaking, boards of trustees, and even if they had the best will in the world to hand over the schools there must be delay and difficulty. When they were not anxious to deliver over the schools they, instead of making haste, might be able to cause delay. They had heard a great deal about the length of time the Commission would take to deal with the cases, and whether they could get through their work expeditiously or not. It seemed to him that the President of the Board of Education ought to be anxious that the bulk of the agreements should be come to directly with the local authorities and without the aid of the Commission, and yet the right hon. Gentleman proposed that the local authorities should only have three months in the present year and the whole of next year in which to complete these agreements. The time was totally inadequate. The right hon. Gentleman must know how long it took under the present law to turn a voluntary school into a provided school. Under the Act of 1902 fresh arrangements had to be made with regard to endowments. The right hon. Gentleman's office was not expeditious, and under the Act of 1902 there were countless schemes proposed by the local authorities which had not been carried out. If it took so long to alter endowments which were sometimes small and unimportant, how much longer it would take to alter the whole foundation on which these schools had been based. The right hon. Gentleman had given the local authorities a task which he knew they could not accomplish in the time allotted to them, and if he persisted in refusing to accept the Amendment it must be because he wished to force these agreements out of the hands of the local authorities into the hands of the Commissioners. The right hon. Gentleman had ended most of his speeches by threatening that if the voluntary schools did not make agreements the local authorities would provide schools. If the right hon. Gentleman knew more of the bodies who administered education he would know that they were not quite so regardless of expense as to build a second school when there was already a school in the parish. If the Government were willing to give £1,000,000 of the ratepayers' money to build schools, he thought those who administered education had enough regard for economy to say that it would be absurd and extravagant to build another school where there was one already. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would afford time not to the Commission but to the local authorities to enable them to come to amicable arrangements with the owners of voluntary schools in as many cases as possible.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) submitted to the Solicitor-General that a great many laymen like himself had asked a plain question to which they had not yet received an answer. The question was how far the Government were going to amend Clause 8 and give it a retrospective effect on Clause 1. Would the Amendment to be made in Clause 8 have practically the effect of repealing Clause 1?

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 190; Noes, 361. (Division List No. 90.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Rt Hn Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Clarke, Sir Edw. (City London)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, South
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edmds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh'e.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'gh W.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, J. Frederick Peel
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)

Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, Col. W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes —Mr. Salter and Mr. Evelyn Ceci

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt. Hn. HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, J. Emmott (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, J. Williams (Devonport)
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bilson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir J. T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Syndey Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dickinson,H.W. (S.Pancras,N.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan(Hereford,S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hove,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich Sir George

Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund, G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest, H. (Rochester
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Baratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (S. Pancras, E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. H. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor

Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert Jn. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under-Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)

Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, D. Alfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset, E.
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W Dudley Southamp'n
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Huddrsfld
Yoxall James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) rose to move—

"In line 8, after the word 'school' to insert the words 'other than any marine school or any school which is part of or held in the premises of any institution in which children are boarded.'"

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (Mr. CALDWELL, Lanarkshire, Mid.) said the Amendment was out of order, because if the hon. Member would look at Clause 38 he would find that marine schools, etc., were expressly dealt with.

LORD BALCARRES submitted that the Amendment was in order. It was true that Clause 38 would reserve to the Board of Education the power to give a Parliamentary grant to marine schools, but he wished to except them from the operation of Clause 1. When they came to Clause 38 he would be unable to except them and these schools would *ipso facto* become provided schools.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said that the question would properly arise under Clause 38, which dealt with the exception of these very schools.

LORD BALCARRES asked for a further ruling as to whether an Amendment to Clause 38 excluding such schools would be in order.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that any rulings with regard to Clause 38 would have to be considered by whoever was in the Chair when that clause was reached.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought it right to ask the Deputy Chairman whether this question could be raised hereafter, and whether it should not now be dealt with.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said he could express no opinion as regards the future. All he could do was to rule as regards the present, and, in his opinion, the proposed Amendment was not in order in this place, for the reason which he had stated.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) rose to move an Amendment the effect of which was, he said, that instead of fixing a date at which the Act should come into force, they should insert words to say that the school should continue to be a public elementary school until a date when either an arrangement had been come to with the trustees or the Commission had sat and completed the scheme. Such an Amendment would meet the objection which had been entertained on both sides of the Committee as to the fixed date, and it would meet the justice of the case.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) rose to a point of order. This Amendment had not been put upon the Paper and it was difficult to follow, but he gathered that it sought to make certain exceptions for certain schools. He submitted that the proper place to do that was at the end of this clause. They had in the clause the word "unless," and as he understood it, if the words proposed were inserted, the section would not read. It would be absolutely bad drafting and would make the clause rubbish.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked as a point of order whether a question of good or bad drafting was a question of order.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS submitted that that was not a point of order.

*THE CHAIRMAN (who had resumed his place) said he had looked very carefully at this Amendment when it was handed in, and it struck him as being an Amendment which raised the question of delay in another form from that recently decided. Therefore he concluded that it was in order and that the hon. Member should be allowed to move it. He would, however, look at the other matter of whether it read or not.

MR. LOUGH submitted that the point of order was a substantial one. If the Amendment was inserted, the clause would not read.

MR. RAWLINSON submitted that his Amendment was in order and that with it the clause would read perfectly.

*THE CHAIRMAN thought the objection raised by the hon. and learned Member was correct. If these words were put in he thought the words at the end of the clause would not read properly.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) moved to insert after "not" in line 8 of the clause the words "except with the sanction of the Board of Education." His object, he explained, was to raise the very serious and important question whether they were to confine schools entirely to one uniform cast-iron system or to continue on educational grounds that variety which had hitherto been found so beneficial. The Act of 1870 laid down the principle that the Department should not give any preference or advantage to any school on the ground that it was or was not provided by a school board. The Amendment was proposed with the intention of allowing schools to relieve themselves of the control of the local authority by ceasing to participate in the rates. He thought that such an arrangement would be fair and legitimate and it certainly was not an alarming one. It was quite possible that there might be schools where the managers might prefer to have freedom from interference by the local elected body, in consideration of giving up the assistance they received from the rates. Was it anything but fair that such an arrangement should be allowed to prevail in cases where the option was chosen by the local managers and confirmed by the Board of Education? In that case they had the security of inspection by a Board responsible to the House of Commons, and who found that the school was thoroughly efficient and was producing an article which the State wanted and for which it had paid hitherto. The opportunity of earning grants without receiving rate aid and at the same time preserving independence had hitherto been open to these schools and it was still open to schools in Scotland and Ireland. The State took a very different attitude from the local authority towards a school. The grant by the State was a fixed one, and was given for work actually done, but the local authority made good any deficiency there might be in the revenues of the school. What they were desirous of preserving was the complete independence of the managers of the control of the local body; and if the Board of Education considered that a school might be sanctioned, that its efficiency was such and its work was such that it was really worth what the State offered in return, he thought it should be allowed to continue as heretofore to earn the grant. The local authority assumed a very different position. It entered into the management of a school, and had to supply all deficiencies. The Parliamentary grant was strictly limited in amount, and did not affect to supply all deficiencies. It was only paid, as it was earned, in return for work actually done. The local authority might assume some return for its payments, and with some justice, because it paid not only a limited amount for work done, but it paid any deficiency there might be in the revenue of the school. It might be said that, even with the sanction of the Board of Education, to continue to recognise those schools as State-aided schools was a contravention of one of those mandates so frequently referred to—the mandate in favour of public control. But he did not recognise the mandate except in the strictly limited sense. Public control was perfectly fair, and no doubt was approved by the constituencies, but at ground for public control was given in the public grants. In return for the Parliamentary grant they had the only control which Parliament ever had, namely, a right to have inspection as to efficiency. What he asked for by his Amendment was that with the sanction of the Board of Education where the efficiency of the school had been thoroughly ascertained, where the managers were prepared to carry on their school as an independent institution, they should be allowed to do so. He asked for this on the further ground, and all educational experience would prove it, that it would be a real educational benefit. It would be an injury to the education of this country, and contrary to the tendency of our national genius, if we forced upon the country a single type of school under the public authority. No one who had dealt with these schools and had seen how well they met the requirements of the particular districts in which they were, would be ready to see them entirely replaced by one single mould of school. He was not sure that it would not be well for the country to have a type of school in which economy was to a certain extent studied. Over and over again they had had to remonstrate with local bodies who spent freely, and as they thought extravagantly, in the building of schools. It would not be a bad thing that they should have a type of school which should show that thorough efficiency could be attained with strict economy. Economy was found combined with efficiency in many of the voluntary schools of Scotland. There were many Roman Catholic schools in Scotland which, although they could not indulge in the lavish architectural structures which sometimes evoked their protests, did the utmost good. He wished to plead for the amount of freedom which had worked well in a country where they were not troubled with the religious difficulty, which did not seek to check free elasticity, and which did not force the schools to adopt a cast-iron form of school.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'not' to insert 'except with the sanction of the Board of Education.' "—(*Sir Henry Craik.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

*Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said that this was the most vicious and reactionary proposition that they were likely to hear during the course of these debates. He was amazed that such a proposition should come from an hon. Member so long engaged in the education of the best educated country in the world. It was no good to quote the voluntary schools of Scotland, because the system as understood in England did not exist in Scotland. In this case they were dealing with a system under which more than half the schools of the country were voluntary schools, and this was a proposal to allow them to contract themselves out and to go back to the days prior to the Act of 1902. If the hon. Gentleman knew anything about the inside of the voluntary schools of this country, whatever they might be north of the Tweed, he would not have made this proposal. He had never denied that whatever the faults of the Act of 1902, it accomplished a great reform when it put the voluntary schools upon the same level as the other public elementary schools of the country. Did the hon. Gentleman who moved this Amendment know the conditions of the voluntary schools in this country before they were to some extent put under public control? Did he know that in the fabric of the schools, in the size of the classes, in the ill-qualified condition of the teachers and their pay, most of these school were practically starved? They knew voluntary schools that were in such a condition that people had said they would not keep their horses and dogs in them. The Act of 1902 did this good. It dragged them out of the obscurity of private management and brought them into the arena of public concern. It made their teachers in a measure public servants and their children the care of the public authority. Now the Committee was asked to go back to the vicious principle of Parliamentary grants and voluntary subscriptions which had been in force before 1902. It was retrograde and pusillanimous to the last degree. There were grave difficulties in trying to render popular control compatible with denominational teaching; but they had to face those difficulties, and it would be the greatest weakness on their part to dodge those difficulties and say they would throw off their responsibility and let these schools go back to the condition of things under which they starved prior to 1902. It would put these schools back entirely into the hands of the clergy and destroy the small measure of public control given by the Leader of the Opposition in the Bill of 1902 and the full control provided for by this Bill. Did the hon. Gentleman seriously think they could keep those schools up to their present level of efficiency? It was part of the theory that there should be the same inspection. That was part of the theory before the Act of 1902; that the same inspectors examined the Board schools and the voluntary schools and that they would see that the value of the income from voluntary subscriptions was made up in some way and that the schools were brought up to the same level as the Board schools. But in the old days the Board of Education inspectors had a double standard of efficiency, and the presumption was that a double standard would be set up again by the Board of Education. It was a reactionary proposal which he hoped the Committee would deal with now once and for all in the most unmistakable manner by saying that they could not go back, but must go forward in the direction of a public and national system of education. They must not go back to the starved and parsimonious system formerly carried on under the name of piety. The voluntary system, to a large extent simply enabled parsimony to masquerade under the guise of piety.

In the great bulk of the cases where people said they preferred denominational teaching they meant they preferred to dodge the School Board Rate. He appealed to the Committee to meet the difficulties as best they could and not to go back to the bad old days before the Act of 1902, when half the children of the country were educationally starved.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR, on a point of order, said he was not quite sure what Amendment the Committee were discussing. The actual words moved from the Chair were "except with the sanction of the Board of Education." The effect of accepting those words would be to allow the Board of Education to permit certain schools to go on as they were now going on under the Act of 1902, with popular control in all matters secular; but the speech of the hon. Member contained another proposition. The Committee ought to know which proposition it was discussing. Both were very important and very arguable.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member had one Amendment down upon the Paper, and he had handed in another which differed from that on the Paper, which he proposed to move later, and which he (the Chairman) presumed, from the hon. Member's speech, was consequential to the one just moved. The Amendment handed in was as follows—

> "Clause 1, page 1, line 9, after the word 'is' to insert 'either supported by aid from the rates or is.'"

Ordinarily both Amendments in such a case were arguable.

MR. DILLON said it was exceedingly desirable that the Committee should know what they were discussing. He entirely agreed with the latter proposition, but he was under the impression that they were discussing the first Amendment of the hon. Member, the effect of which would be to give to the Board of Education the power to allow any voluntary school to stand outside the provisions of this Bill

*THE CHAIRMAN said he could only take the matter put before him. The hon. Member for the Aberdeen University moved this Amendment, and then made a speech in which he dealt with the Amendment which had been read to the Committee and which he proposed to move later. Therefore he presumed that the Amendment moved by the hon. Member could be debated in its stricter sense, and also the other question raised by the later Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked what was the Question upon which they were going to divide. Would those Members of the Committee in favour of exempting certain schools so that they could remain under the Act be allowed to express that opinion in the Division Lobby.

MR. DILLON said that this matter must be settled before they proceeded any further. Were they now discussing an Amendment which gave the Board of Education authority to allow any school to remain under the Act of 1902, or were they bound to some subsequent Amendment.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Have you not put from the Chair the words—"Except with the sanction of the Board of Education?"

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have put an Amendment about which the Committee can judge for themselves. The hon. Member who moved that Amendment coupled with it another Amendment which introduces the option of going back to the Act of 1902. Hon. Members may go into whichever Lobby they prefer.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Are we taking a Division upon the additional Amendment as well.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER (Sir HENRY FOWLER, Wolverhampton): The Question put from the Chair was whether the Board of Education would or would not have a veto.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE said that many hon. Members would be inclined to vote for the first Amendment but not for the second, and it was most desirable that they should be separated.

*THE CHAIRMAN: With the consent of the Committee perhaps I can relieve them from this difficulty. I think we had better take the discussion on the narrower ground of the Amendment moved, as that appears to be what the Committee desires.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether, if the Committee decided not to introduce the words put from the Chair, that would carry an adverse decision in regard to an Amendment which was not before the Committee, and would the hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen University be able to raise the other question dealt with in his Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have not paid very careful attention to this later Amendment, but if the subsequent Amendment makes the Clause read properly I shall allow a discussion upon it.

MR. BIRRELL: Then we had better first get rid of the Amendment "except with the sanction of the Board of Education." The Government must oppose this proposal.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said he should support this Amendment because it afforded a safeguard that denominational schools would receive fair treatment. The West Riding County Council had proved hard task-masters to denominational schools, and he had no hesitation in saying that they in the West Riding would be most grateful if the Committee would provide some alternative by which they would not be put entirely under the power of that council. There had already been serious conflict between the school trustees and the Education Authority, and these difficulties would be certain to recur. He hoped the Committee would pause before leaving these denominational schools to be swallowed up in the manner in which the West Riding County Council had attempted to swallow them up before. There were large bodies in the county who had very serious grievances against the county council, and if the Bill passed in the present form they would be left without appeal. He asked the Committee by passing this Amendment to give them a chance of being heard.

MR. T. M. HEALY said it was curious that the Minister for Education should so soon have forgotten his speech to the Jewish deputation. Of the present Amendment he had disposed in one sentence by saying he could not accept it. In his speech to the Jewish deputation he denounced these pig-headed authorities.

MR. BIRRELL: I said an authority might be pig-headed.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Then why did he contemplate with horror the power of checking it and making it reasonable? Was the position of the Government this, that having created the extraordinary new monster which was to provide religion and education all over the country, yet if the monster behaved pig-headedly and unreasonably to the scattered units which still had some regard for religion and some consideration for their children, they refused an appeal such as the Japanese or Chinese had in South Australia or Africa if ill-treated by the Colonial Authority? This was the Amendment to which the Catholics, he thought, looked with the most confidence. It might be thought that the authorities throughout the length and breadth of the country would act reasonably. He was confident that by nine-tenths of these authorities fair play would be extended, but was nothing to be done for the submerged tenth, the pig-headed ones? Leaving the Romans, as they were called, out of consideration, let them take the case of the Jews. Jews had been ill-treated in this country; on the Continent a fashionable system of Jewish persecution prevailed, and there had been some attempt at providing it in this country. Let them suppose that a Jewish school was unfairly treated. Was there to be no appeal to the central authority? That was an absolute abrogation of the power of the central authority. At present there was an appeal to the central authority in every other matter, and was there to be no appeal under the Bill, and that too at a time when the local authority was to be given a million sterling out of public moneys? Let them take the case of the West Riding of Yorkshire; would the right hon. Gentleman stand up and defend what had been done in Yorkshire? He could not do it. And let it be remembered there might be areas in which there would be Church bodies who would act as unreasonably from an Anglican point of view as the West Riding authority had acted from a secularist or Nonconformist point of view. Were the Government so satisfied with these bodies, which were elected on gusts of popular opinion on questions unconnected with religion, that from their sovereign view there was to be no appeal? Was there to be no appeal to gentlemen who would see fair play? Why did the right hon. Gentleman say that he would contemplate this with horror? He was new to office, but did he suppose that he was speaking for all time? This Bill was legislating for all time. Some day or other in the next century they might expect to see a Conservative Administration in office. The right hon. Gentleman was not legislating for the Liberal Party, but for England; he was legislating for the Catholics and the Jews as well as for Nonconformists. Therefore he respectfully appealed to the Government not to allow this occasion to pass by without showing some consideration for the aggrieved feelings existing on that side of the House. Was it supposed that they were alarmists without reason? Were all their fears invented? Was this all a political dodge? Were they more concerned in politics than in these other matters? Upon a thousand questions he voted with the Government, but upon this he should vote with the Opposition. This was the opportunity for the Minister of Education to do something to allay their fears. He therefore said that this was the time for the right hon. Gentleman to come forward, and with regard to the well-founded fears which they entertained—fears created by the action of these Yorkshire authorities—to introduce into the Bill a provision which would enable them to accept it.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) while sympathising with a great deal the hon. and learned Member had just said, pointed out that the question before the Committee was whether the Board of Education was to have a veto upon the application of the Act in every locality in England. The Government were legislating for the whole of England, and trying, whether skilfully or unskilfully, to put in the forefront of the Bill one principle, and one principle only—namely, that the dual system of schools in this country should cease, and that all public elementary schools—no matter with what denomination they might be connected, or what their history—so far as they received public moneys, should be subject to the provisions of this Act. There were already in the Bill provisions for protecting some of the interests that the hon. Gentleman referred to, and it was time the Committee got to the consideration of those clauses. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had said there were 16,000 or 17,000 schools to be dealt with. Talk about four years being occupied in settling the questions which would arise! If this Amendment were accepted it would take ten years. It was an absolutely impracticable Amendment. It could not be carried out.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) remarked that the discussion might have been avoided if the Government had consented to postpone the first clause. In certain circumstances it was not impossible that many members of the Opposition might be in favour of one system of public control; but if they could not be sure that denominational schools would be safeguarded and protected in an adequate manner, he did not see how they could do otherwise than vote for the Amendment. He would rather have done as the Chancellor of the Duchy suggested, namely, have settled this question on Clauses 3 and 4 before having this discussion at all. It might then have been unnecessary to move the Amendment. But for that reason he thought it most desirable that the discussion should be conducted by the Government with more forethought and that a full opportunity should be given of postponing or not postponing clauses which, after all, were much more material when the discussion on other clauses had taken place.

Mr. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster had informed the Committee quite correctly that this Amendment did raise the question of the dual system. He and some hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House would appeal to the President of the Board of Education once more to admit this principle or rather to retain it as they had it at present. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had spoken in very disparaging terms of the voluntary schools; he had been an assistant master in a very large and palatial board school. It was a great mistake to suppose that the best education was always given in the largest schools. There was no commoner fallacy in this country than that the best education must be given in the £15 per place board schools and county council schools of the country. The best education was given in those schools where the personality of the teacher could be impressed on the children.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member does not seem to be applying himself to the Amendment. The question of the kind of schools would come much better on the next Amendment.

Mr. CARLILE said he thought it was extremely vicious that they should adopt a system in this country which would saddle them with one particular kind of school. Under the system proposed by the Amendment they would be able to continue to have efficient instruction in the small schools as well as the large schools. They wanted to have the right of appeal to the right hon. Gentleman so long as he was at the Board of Education to protect them in country places from unreasonable educational authorities. Unless this Amendment was inserted the owners of voluntary schools would have no power to protect themselves from such authorities.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I rise to ask whether the hon. Member has not brought himself within Rule 19, which applies to an hon. Gentleman who persists in irrelevancy.

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter which should essentially be left to the Chairman. It is usual for the Chairman to warn an hon. Member before proceeding to put that rule in operation.

Mr. CARLILE said that under this Act the voluntary schools would pass into the hands of the local education authority. In that way the power of giving religious instruction according to their faith would be entirely destroyed unless they had an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to protect them from that outrage.

*Earl PERCY (Kensington, S.) said the position of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton was that the Government could not accept the Amendment because it would strike at the root principle of the Bill, which was the principle of public control. It had been the contention of his hon. friends throughout that the principle of public control, to which they did not object in the least, was fully recognised in the Bill of 1902.

*Sir HENRY FOWLER: That was not my contention. My point was that the only question before the Committee at this moment is whether there should or should not be an appeal to the Board of Education to settle whether A, B, or C in a certain place should or should not be subject to the definition in the clause.

*Earl PERCY said he could not understand any reason why there should not be an appeal. The position of the Opposition was that so far as secular education was concerned there was full provision for public control under the Bill of 1902, because the local authority held the purse and no school could get public money unless the managers satisfied the Board of Education that the secular education given in the school was sufficient. This Bill did not give the local authority control over religious education. It made it impossible for the local authority to grant a single penny of public money for doctrinal teaching, although all the ratepayers in a district belonged to the same denomination. What they were discussing now was whether consistently with the safeguard of public control, about which hon. Gentlemen opposite were so anxious, they could not give the right to some schools to stand outside the particular system contemplated by this Bill. There was nothing to prevent the Education Department from saying: "We will allow you to continue under the conditions of the Act of 1902; but we will attach to this permission or exemption some such condition as that all the managers, or a majority of the managers, shall be popularly elected." He hoped the Government would see their way to accept the Amendment.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he hoped hon. Gentlemen opposite would remember that this was a measure which created a very strong feeling in different portions of the Committee; and it was putting something of a strain upon the Gentlemen sitting on the Opposition and Irish Benches when speeches were delivered such as that by the hon. Member sitting on the back Ministerial bench in which the voluntary schools were referred to in a very slighting manner. If there was one thing more necessary than another at the commencement of a long discussion on a Bill of this kind, it was that good temper should be displayed on all sides; but he did not see how that was to be maintained for any length of time when observations of that kind were made against hon. Gentlemen who supported voluntary schools at a time when nothing was done for education by the State. He asked the Minister for Education whether he could not reconsider the position he had taken up. He did not think that the Amendment meant that there should be an appeal in every single case from the local educational authority, but only that the local authority should give their sanction to certain schools. There was nothing strange in that demand, and nothing against the principle of the Bill. They were all anxious to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion on this question, and he thought that the President of the Board of Education would be well advised if he met hon. Members with as much conciliation as possible. The right hon. Gentleman had said that this clause was the backbone of the Bill, but it would be necessary to hear the views of those who were opposed to it.

MR. BIRRELL said that the words proposed to be inserted by the Amendment would throw on the Board of Education the duty of considering every school in the country unless without that sanction the school fell under Clause 4. He could only repeat what his right hon. friend had said in regard to an appeal to the Board of Education, that that would receive careful consideration on a later clause. But to insert the words of the Amendment into this clause would upset the whole Bill.

MR. T. M. HEALY made the suggestion that the Amendment should be withdrawn. Surely the right hon. Gentleman, the Minister for Education, was speaking with sincerity. Let them clinch the bargain.

MR. BIRRELL said that Parliamentary understandings were apt to lead to misunderstandings. When he said that when this question of an appeal to the Board of Education was discussed under Clause 4, in cases where the local authority might be considered to act unreasonably, it would be carefully considered; but the word bargain must not be allowed to be used.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he did not think that the point at issue was quite clear even now. The right hon. Gentleman said that at some later period the Government would consider the question of an appeal from the local authority in all cases. Some of the speakers had dealt with the Amendment as if it involved that. It did nothing of the kind. What was wanted was to give the right hon. Gentleman and his Department the right to take those schools out of the Bill. The Amendment provided in a very convenient way for meeting the wishes of those people for whom the extended facilities clause had been provided; and if the right hon. Gentleman accepted this Amendment it might prevent discussions on Clause 4 which otherwise would be very prolonged. There was the special case of the Jews and Roman Catholics, which all were agreed were exceptional. By the Amendment it would be perfectly possible for the managers of Catholic and Jewish schools to appeal to the Board of Education to relieve them from the operation of the Bill. Was not that really the object of the right hon. Gentleman himself? Was not that the simplest way of accomplishing what he designed by Clause 4? By Clause 4 the right hon. Gentleman said that if certain conditions were satisfied, including the fact that four-fifths of the parents of the children in a particular school were agreed, they were to have a religious atmosphere in the school, secured by the appointment of their own teachers, and those teachers were to give the religious education. Why then should the right hon. Gentleman object to certain schools being exempt from the operation of the Bill? He himself was in favour of all those exemptions to Jews and Catholics and Anglicans; and when the proper time came he was going to protest in the Committee, and elsewhere, as loudly and strenuously as he could, against making a distinction between people who occupied precisely the same position as regarded their conscientious convictions. He did not believe in treating the conscientious objection of one man as if it were of a different character from the conscientious objection of another man. Therefore, he should vote for this Amendment, because it would allow the Education Department to make exemptions.

MR. DILLON said that though the Amendment was somewhat obscurely drawn, it was absurd to say that it would have the effect of bringing in 15,000 or 16,000 schools to appeal against the operation of the Bill when passed. It was perfectly well known that the decisions in forty or fifty cases would rule the whole country. The effect of the Amendment would be that the Board of Education would have the power to take into consideration the cases of schools where there was no difference of opinion—schools which were homogeneous, and immediate exemption would be given from the operation of the Act if desired. And whether they desired it would largely depend on the effect of the later Amendments which would be proposed on this Bill. If they did desire to be exempted, all that the Amendment would do would be to give to the Board of Education the power to lay down a rule for their exemption.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 171; Noes, 336. (Division List No. 91.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir A.F.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn.HughO
Ashley, W.W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn.Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish,Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down,E.
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lan'k,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd

Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir H. Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., F're'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lundon, W.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tip'ary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, J. Frederick Peel
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rutherford W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Seely, Major J. B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, F. E. (Liverp'l, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Unv
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancash.)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Henry Craik and Sir Francis Lowe.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, J. Emmott (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn J. Williams (Devonport)
Benn, W. T'w'r H'ml'ts, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff.
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C. H. (S's'x, E. Grinst)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)

Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberd'n, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leom'ster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Fal'k, B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McCrea, George
McKenna, Reginald
McLaren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
McLaren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
McMicking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncr.)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pemb'ke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manch'st'
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (M'th'r)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Som'r't, E
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southam'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norf'k, Mid.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Hud'rsf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*Sir HENRY CRAIK said he had understood when moving his last Amendment that it would be more convenient to explain the object then of the further Amendment which he now proposed to move. He therefore did not think it necessary now to do more than to read the Amendment which he had handed in. It was—

> "In Clause 1, line 9, after 'is' to insert 'either supported by aid from the rates or is.'"

The object of that was to make it certain that a school might be considered elegible for the Parliamentary grant which was either supported without aid from the rates or was a school provided by the local education authority. The object of the Amendment was that a school, although it might withdraw itself from the control of the local education authority, dispensing at the same time with the benefit of the rate aid it might receive from the local authority, might preserve its independence and be eligible for Parliamentary grants, so long as it was approved by the Board of Education, and after the inspectors of the Board had shown it to be doing thoroughly efficient work and in all its conditions complying with the requirements necessary to obtain a Parliamentary grant. Those conditions could not be complied with by inefficient schools, insanitary schools, or such schools as were described by the hon. Member for North Camberwell. He was quite convinced that there were many schools doing good work, and not open to the obloquy cast upon them by the hon. Member, and if those schools were able to prove that they satisfied the conditions laid down by the Board of Education he saw no reason why they should be deprived of the recompense for their work, which was their right as taxpayers, and which the Act of 1870 secured for them. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 9, after 'is' to insert 'either supported by aid from the rates or is.'"—(*Sir Henry Craik.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. BIRRELL said the effect of the Amendment, if acceded to, would be to set up two kinds of schools, one of which would receive both State aid and rate aid, and the other of which would receive simply the Parliamentary grant and no assistance from what had been described as the bottomless purse of the ratepayer. Although he thought there was a bottom even to that, he quite agreed with all that had been said in favour of diversity in our schools. He did not advocate any hard and fast and rigid curriculum or anything like the system adopted in France, where the Minister for Education could look at his watch and thank Heaven that he could tell which subject every teacher in every class in every single part of France was teaching at that time. That was not the uniformity that appealed to him. But there was a type of uniformity which every educationist must aim at, and that was that there must not be any marked difference between one public school or another with regard to the qualification of the teachers, either through the training they had received or through the size of the class room, sanitation, or the like. They must all strive after a system which would secure for all the public schools of this country uniformity of excellence of provision, whatever diversity they allowed themselves in the curriculum. He had no objection to diversity in education as long as there was uniformity in the provisions made for education. With regard to the statement of the hon. Gentleman that there need be no difference between the two kinds of schools supposing the inspection established by the Board of Education was sufficiently satisfactory in both cases, and that the same kind of pressure was put forward in both classes of schools, he was afraid it was impossible to hope for any such kind of inspection. The inspectors, without showing any partiality, would have to strike a distinction between a school which had two great sources of revenue to supply it and the school which had not any or, at most, only one. They had found in the past that inspectors—although it was wrong to charge them with partiality—had been making a distinction as to what they considered necessary at the old board school and in the old voluntary school. He was not speaking of all schools. In the large towns there had always been voluntary schools, some of which were excellent, but let them look at some of the schools in the country. Nobody could go into the country with his eyes open without seeing that there was a different standard of excellence required from one school from that which was required from another. He had been reminded that he was new to his office. That was true, but he would be very much surprised if there was any gentleman in the Committee who had had active acquaintance with Whitehall who would not support him in saying that from an educational point of view it was eminently undesirable to have two systems of schools, two sorts of standards, and two kinds of ideas. That was the very dual system which he thought they were all agreed in condemning. Obviously it would be a desirable thing, if it could be managed, that we should have in this country what they had in others, public elementary schools forming, not a hard and fast curriculum, but one standard of excellence, so that the children in one part of the country should not be deprived of that which they would have enjoyed had they lived in another part of the country. They did want to see the public grants, which were now assuming such gigantic proportions, wisely spent. All educationists were thoroughly satisfied that if the dual system could be got rid of it would not only be a great saving in time, temper, and expense in the administration of the education laws, but would also secure to the children of this country the equal benefit of a good education in good schools at the hands of well-trained teachers. The question of training teachers was a most important one. The better they were trained the more they would be in demand at the schools to which they carried their talents, and therefore it was most important that they should be well trained. With regard to the voluntary schools, he could not look forward with anything but grief to the continuation of the dual system in any way. He still hoped that the provisions of this Bill, much abused as they had been, nevertheless contained the means of securing an unbroken excellence in our educational work, and that the children of the country, irrespective of the religious faith of their parents, would be able to be educated in public elementary schools of that degree of excellence which could only be obtained by means of assistance derived from both State and rate aid; and that there would be no necessity for a return to the condition of things as it was before 1902. He could only say that the Government were bound to oppose the Amendment, thinking that in so doing they were doing the best for the children of the country.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that nothing gave him greater pleasure than to hear the eulogies on the Act of 1902 of the Minister for Education and the hon. Gentleman the Member for North Camberwell. He thought the hon. Gentleman had said more of the great educational reform of that Act than any of his friends around him, possibly because he knew more of the actual working of the school system of the country than those who approached the question not from an educational point of view, but solely, so far as he could understand, from a partisan or denominational point of view. While they might therefore for the moment agree that the Act of 1902 was a great educational reform, one question was whether the Amendment of his hon. friend really required them to go back to the pre-1902 days, and whether the schools he desired to see preserved were open to the criticisms justly passed on the system before the late Government took the question of elementary education seriously in hand. The right hon. Gentleman and the hon. Gentleman the Member for North Camberwell appeared to assume that the schools which his hon. friend desired to spare from the operation of the Bill were going to be schools ill-equipped, ill-built, inadequate in point of accommodation, and insufficiently provided with funds to give the teachers proper salaries. He gathered, however, that his hon. friend did not desire that the schools he wished to spare should be in any sense less well-equipped, less well-provided than those which the public authorities provided. His object was not a denominational one; it was an educational object. He sympathised with that object, and he still hoped that, under the Act of 1902, they would see produced a greater measure of that variety which his hon. friend rightly desired should form an essential part of our educational system. He had not been in a position to follow closely the work of the educational authorities throughout the country, and he did not know whether they had taken advantage of the liberty given by the Act of 1902. He sometimes doubted whether that was the case, and whether the education authorities set up by that Act really had endeavoured to make the schools under their charge vary according to the particular districts or parishes in which the schools were situated, and whether they had not been too much bound by a cast-iron system which every authority, local or Imperial, had the strongest tendency to fall into. But on that point the right hon. Gentleman had greater knowledge than he had, and he could only express the hope that the influence of the Board of Education would be used as much as possible to induce the local authorities to exercise the power of decentralisation which had been given them. Then came the question how under the Amendment would that variety be obtained, and would it be obtained at the cost of educational efficiency? Both the Minister for Education and the hon. Member for North Camberwell had assumed that his hon. friend desired to see the pre-1902 system revived. He did not gather that that was his view. As far as he understood his policy, it was that, where there existed a school which, either by the magnitude of its endowments or the liberality of the population in which it was situated, possessed funds beyond those provided by the State, and was in a position to carry on, in competition with schools with rate-aid behind them, the education of the population on terms not less generous, not less excellent to the children, not less worthy in every way of their admiration, that school should be spared and that the ratepayers should not be asked to bear an expense that somebody else was ready to take on his shoulders. He saw no abstract objection to that proposal, but he felt that, as the Amendment stood, his hon. friend provided no machinery by which schools carried on on a scale as liberal as those that were rate-aided were to be selected from those schools which were not so carried on. He did not think it would have been impossible for the Board of Education to find a plan for differentiating the schools if it had been understood that only one standard of efficiency was to be allowed, and that that standard was not to fall below that provided by the rate-aided schools in the district. The hon. Member for North Camberwell appeared to think that that was an impossibility, and that they would never get the inspectors to be as severe in the judgment they passed upon voluntary schools as upon rate-aided schools. That was so under the old system. It was so before 1902, because the inspectors, and the Board of Education whom they served, recognised that if they were to screw up the standard of the equipment of voluntary schools to that which was provided, and which could be provided by the rate-aided schools they would have destroyed part of the educational machinery in the country, and naturally and properly they shrank from a policy which would have had such disastrous results to education. Whether it would be impossible now to make a selection he did not like to pronounce, because they must have machinery before them by which that selection could be carried out. As his hon. friend did not propose that machinery, they were not in a position to judge whether a machinery could be provided or not, and he should not feel justified in supporting the Amendment until he saw whether or not there was a method suggested by which the onerous responsibility of determining between the fully efficient voluntary schools and those that were something short of fully efficient could be discharged. Though he entirely sympathised with the object of his hon. friend, and though he did not go to the length of saying that the object was unattainable, he had not yet found the machinery for attaining it, and he would therefore suggest that, at the present stage of their discussions, he should not press the Amendment to a division.

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said that one of the chief needs of our educational system was greater flexibility, diversity, and variety. Before the Act of 1902 there was variety, but it was chaotic. The Act of 1902, however, had this great merit, that it retained variety subject to a controlling unity. The authors of that Act must have been pleased at hearing the eulogy passed upon it by the hon. Member for North Camberwell for merits which were entirely deserved, but which had been greatly lost sight of in most of the debates in this House. Shortly after the Act of 1902 was passed a gentleman of his acquaintance, the secretary to an education committee, was asked, "Are you one of those who believe in education?" His friend replied, "Yes, I am one of those who do venture to believe in education." "Well, I am a believer in ignorance and common sense," was the retort. The Act of 1902 brought the reign of ignorance and common sense to a close. But if there was variety without unity before 1902, and if after 1902 there had been a unified system combined with variety, one of the marked defects of this Bill was that the variety was done away; at least the aim of the Bill was to produce a rigid uniformity of type, although it did not entirely carry out that aim. From that point of view the Bill seemed to him to deserve sharp criticism. It was not as if we had arrived at any kind of an ideal system, or at any type of education which represented perfection. We were just at that stage when it was necessary to strike out and make new experiments in all directions, and adapt ourselves as far as possible to the varieties of local needs and the varieties of human minds and human beliefs.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member must not make a Second Reading speech.

*MR. BUTCHER said he would proceed to address himself very closely to the Amendment. His point was that the power of contracting out of the Bill had this in its favour, that it might bring back some of the variety which we were now in danger of losing. He himself had a Resolution very similar to this on the Paper, but he had taken it off. The effect of it was that there should be a power enabling voluntary schools to get back to the position they were in before 1902. In that case they would still retain their own managers; they would be bound to maintain their own buildings; they would be entitled to the same State grant as a provided school under this present Bill, but they would receive no aid from the rates; and so there would be no need for passive resistance. Under such a power, certain schools, especially in the more wealthy localities, might be maintained by the denominations at a high state of efficiency; and a good deal could be said in favour of such a proposal. The danger was that if the system were to become normal and regular instead of exceptional, it would, educationally, be a retrograde movement. He did not, however, think that it would necessarily, or in all cases, lead to the results anticipated by the hon. Member for North Camberwell. Still he felt the risk of many of the Church schools falling back into the position from which they were just emerging, and dying by a slow process of inanition. An amendment of this kind, although it might be a useful supplement to Clause 4, could not be a substitute for it. He hoped his hon. friend the Member for Glasgow would not press the Amendment to a division, in spite of the sympathy which he felt for the views he had expressed in support of it.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member withdraw his Amendment?

Sir HENRY CRAIK: No, Sir.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL said he felt great difficulty in accepting the Amendment on account of its impracticability. His right hon. friend the member for the City of London had spoken of the intolerable strain. He was one of those who suffered under the intolerable strain, and he did not wish to place himself in a position which would produce a renewal of that evil. He had no doubt that if a clause of this kind was placed on the Statute book great pressure would be employed by zealous friends of religious education on those who were willing and able to give support, and the result would not be advantageous to education. Each of these schools would be conducted under circumstances of great difficulty. Their condition would be at best uncertain, because they would depend on contributions which would always be doubtful and always collected under circumstances of great difficulty, and they would by no means be secure of that permanence which the endowment of every educational institution essentially required. He did not believe that if they had schools of this class they could staff them efficiently. Teachers would not be willing to link their future or their prosperity with schools of such precarious character. With reference to the argument in favour of variety, he admitted that the schools now existing had not that variety which he for one would desire. It was impossible that they could have that change in a few years. They must have new arrangements, with managers and teachers with new ideas, and it was only by a process of evolution they could secure this variety. In going through different schools he had been gratified at finding a beginning of this improvement, and he believed that there was much less of the stereotyped system than in 1902. He was not by any means certain if they had schools of the character which would be established under this clause that they would secure greater variety. He very much doubted it. The difficulty would be greater in the case of non-provided schools under the proposed plan, because there would be less inducement to embark on a new and perhaps a costly system. Therefore he could not view this proposal as one that would give them those great advantages which they were eager to pursue, and under these circumstances he could not support the Amendment, although he was glad the discussion had been raised. He joined in the appeal that the Amendment should be withdrawn.

Lord WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lincolnshire, Horncastle) said he had no doubt that many Members were of the opinion that it would be a great mistake to go back to anything like the state of affairs that existed before the Act of 1902, but he was extremely doubtful whether that opinion was shared all over the country, or at any rate in the rural districts of England. He was one of those who, even at the risk of being called reactionary by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, infinitely preferred the system as it existed before 1902, and he could safely say that of all the votes he had given in the House—as far as the question of gaining or losing the votes of his constituents was concerned—the votes he gave on the Education Bill of 1902 were those he regretted most. He voted for that Bill, and it cost him a lot of votes. Personally he considered that Bill was a fair Bill, and he voted for it, but the present Bill he considered unfair, and he had no hesitation in saying that those Members who supported it would find that it would cost them a lot of votes. If there was one thing the people of the country desired it was to get rid of the control of the councils. The thing that went down so much with the electors at the general election in many villages was that local control was taken away under the Bill of 1902, and handed over to the county council.

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Order, order! We cannot go into such matters upon this Amendment.

Lord WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY said that the Amendment, if accepted, would restore the right of control to certain parishes where the people were prepared to pay for their own schools out of their own pockets aided by any endowments they had. He believed that an Amendment of this kind would be exceedingly popular, especially in the rural districts, because it would have the effect of enabling the parishes to retain their schools in their own hands, provided they were able to find the money without appealing to the rates. The Amendment practically restored the old conditions that existed before 1902. One of the causes of the unpopularity of the Act of 1902 was that the late Government took away the control by the different parishes, and in the present Bill they should have some method by which the people in the parish —if they were prepared to put up the money—would be allowed to retain their schools, and get rid of the county councils, which, alike to landlords, farmers, and labourers in the counties of England in regard to education matters, were exceedingly unpopular.

Dr. MACNAMARA said he was amazed that the Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities had brought forward this reactionary and pusillanimous proposal, but he was still more amazed to find it supported by the hon. Member for Cambridge University.

*Mr. BUTCHER said he did not support it. He asked his hon. friend to withdraw the Amendment.

Dr. MACNAMARA said the hon. Member stated that he saw a great deal that was attractive in a proposal which would enable some voluntary schools to contract themselves out of the Bill. Would the hon. Member say that large classes and dilapidated buildings were attractive ?

*Mr. BUTCHER said the reason he gave for not being in favour of the Amendment was that he was afraid there might be these results in the poorer districts.

Dr. MACNAMARA said the hon. Member was not in favour of the Amendment because of the contingency of its working evil. He hoped the Committee would not allow the Amendment to be withdrawn. It was a vicious proposal, and he hoped it would be negatived. The hon. Member for East Clare had accused him of saying that piety had been masquerading in the guise of parsimony. What he did say was that under the voluntary system in a great many cases parsimony had masqueraded as piety. That he believed to be the fact, but it was quite different from the statement attributed to him by the hon. Member.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) objected to the withdrawal of the Amendment. He hoped a division would be taken, by which they might settle this important question. There was something to be said for the view expressed by the hon. Member for Cambridge University; his point of view was different from that of the mover of the Amendment. He preferred the view of the representative of an English University to that of the representative of the Scottish Universities, who had gone into the domain of English education with which he was very slightly acquainted. During the eleven years he himself had been a member of the House he had never opened his mouth in a Scottish education debate.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said the mover of the Amendment had spoken with an educational experience which they must respect, and he had in view an object which the Board of Education must needs have at heart—namely, that there should be no dead uniformity in our elementary school system. But he doubted whether the Amendment would attain a variety of the sort that they all desired. The Board of Education ought to impress on the local authorities the importance of observing local conditions, but the variety which would be attained by the Amendment would be denominational variety rather than adaptation to surroundings. He took exception, however, to some of the arguments advanced against his Amendment. In particular he denied that the voluntary schools were in the inferior condition described by the hon. Member for North Camberwell. He had heard the hon. Member say that on many occasions; but he was sometimes apt to generalise largely and liberally on very few instances. It having been his duty during the last few years to go into a great many voluntary schools in the country, he quite admitted that the condition of some of them was not all that one would wish but he entirely denied that they were as a whole unhealthy, unsuitable, and unfit for the occupation of children during school hours. Nor was he prepared to admit that the teaching was so inefficient as the hon. Member for North Camberwell said it was. The Committee had often been misled by these large generalisations, and many hon. Members were not in the habit of visiting voluntary schools. Therefore, to say that to support this Amendment would be to condemn half the schools in the country to an insanitary and ill-ventilated condition, and that the children were badly taught, was a gross exaggeration. The suggestion that "parsimony masquerading as piety" was the motive which had in the past led to the maintenance of voluntary schools at great sacrifice and expenditure of money by charitable persons was unworthy of one possessing the great educational experience of the hon. Member for North Camberwell. But as against the Amendment he felt bound to say that in following the working of the Act of 1902 he had been greatly impressed with the value of uniformity of control—he did not say uniformity of management—as regarded secular instruction. It enabled the local authorities, where they threw themselves heartily into the matter, to build from the foundation a complete educational system for the areas which they controlled; and he confessed he should be sorry to see a small group of exceptions established in these areas — fragmentary units of schools free from the control of the local education authority. He did not say that it was impossible to attain a standard of uniformity between the excepted schools and the other schools in the area, but his hon. friend had not suggested the machinery by which it might be done, and the difficulty of maintaining such a standard would throw a heavy responsibility on the Board of Education. He ventured to think that the Amendment of his hon. friend would be found to apply only to a small group of schools richly endowed or surrounded by a wealthy neighbourhood. Although he desired to see variety of character and interest in the schools, he could not think that any of these objects would be attained by the Amendment, and he advised his hon. friend to withdraw it.

LORD R. CECIL said he would not have taken part in the discussion on this Amendment had it not been for the rather truculent speeches of the hon. Members for North Camberwell and Nottingham. He acknowledged that these hon. Gentlemen were educational experts, and he did not join as a rule in the vulgar outcry against experts; but experts had a tendency to look at only one side of a problem. He therefore could not follow them in their condemnation of the Amendment now before the Committee. It was not a re-establishment, as those hon. Members seemed to think, of the system which prevailed before 1902. No doubt that system had great defects. The increasing expense of education had made the voluntary system incapable of meeting that expense without further assistance either from the rates or from the State. He was sure that his hon. friend the Member for Oxford University would forgive him if he said that he had attached too much weight to the difficulties, and too little weight to the advantages, of variety in education. He could assure the hon. Member that the present cast iron uniformity of education in public elementary schools was a very serious grievance to many people, who thought with the greatest regret of the old system where there was diversity and different schools from which they could select one to which to send their children. That was a very serious loss, which had been occasioned by the otherwise beneficent measure of 1902. He confessed that he would be very glad to see the re-establishment, as was proposed by the Amendment, of a certain amount of diversity, particularly for those localities which were able to afford the luxury of having a public elementary school not bound down by the iron rule of bureaucracy.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he recognised the careful consideration which had been given to the Amendment which he had moved. He did not think it necessary to occupy the time of the Committee for more than a few minutes; and he scarcely thought it worth while to defend himself from the strictures of the hon. Gentleman on the Ministerial benches. Apart altogether from his long service in the Scotch Education Department, his fifteen years experience in the English Education Department surely gave him a right to use the ordinary privileges of a member of the House to express his views on education questions without falling under the dire condemnation of the hon. Member for North Camberwell. He denied that his Amendment was intended as a means of enabling denominationalists to contract out of the Bill. He had only suggested that some schools might be so placed—whether there was a difference of religion or not did not matter—that by the means at their disposal they might be encouraged to carry on the work of education as independent institutions apart from the assistance of the rates. He was sorry to find from the words of the right hon. the President of the Board of Education that he could not trust the officers of his own department to give an independent judgment which would restrict abuses of that privilege. From his experience in both the Scotch and English Education Departments he denied that the responsible heads ever gave any encouragement to their officers to present an unfair or unduly flattering report upon denominational schools. He had never proposed that under the Amendment there should be a general dispensation of any kind, but he thought that if there were schools, however small their number, able to carry on the work of education free from local control, it was an unfair thing to refuse them the payment from the Imperial Exchequer to which they contributed and which they earned by work honestly done. Satisfied with having elicited expressions of opinion he desired to withdraw the Amendment. [Cries of "No."]

Leave to withdraw the Amendment having been refused,

Question put, and negatived.

*Mr. MADDISON moved to add at the end of line 10 the words—

"And unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours nor at the public expense."

Sir Henry Craik.

He said that whatever might be the views of hon. Members about the merits of this Amendment, there would be no difference of opinion as to the desirability of its being discussed at the present time. There was a large volume of public opinion in its favour, and therefore it was an advantage that an expression of those views should be given in the Committee and recorded in the Division Lobby. There were other Amendments on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Leicester and others which he should have been delighted to support, but his Amendment happened to be first, and that was why he moved it. He said at once that he had no special qualification to move this Amendment. He was not an expert in teaching, and if he could in any sort of way find a qualification it would be that of a parent. All his children had attended board and council schools, and, after all, there was some little advantage when one approached this question from the standpoint of the parent of children who attended the board schools and were subject to the advantages or disadvantages of those institutions. To that extent only had he any qualification for this task. He wanted to say at the outset that he had no hostile intention so far as the Bill was concerned. He recognised that it was an honest attempt to solve a very difficult problem—a problem which could find in his opinion no solution which would give immediate peace; because, whichever policy was adopted there would be left behind a good deal of angry feeling. But he did submit that while the peace would not be immediate the justice would be ultimate. He claimed for this Amendment that it would give effect to the two fundamental principles of the Bill, full popular control and the abolition of tests for teachers. There was, in his opinion, no other way of carrying out that policy, and if the Committee did not adopt the Amendment Clause 4 or something similar was inevitable. The form of religious instruction attempted by the Bill was what was known as simple Bible teaching. He thought right hon. and hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House were wrong when they described that instruction as being merely Nonconformist religion. That appeared to him to be unfair from their own point of view, and already the Front Opposition Bench had realised that they could not afford to follow the bishops, and they had dropped the hue and cry against simple Bible teaching. But one had to admit this, and it was a very awkward admission, that simple Bible teaching was Protestant. It was Protestant because the Roman Catholic Church, as he understood it, would not trust simple Bible teaching unless they had a divine interpreter to say what was the interpretation to be put upon the sacred volume. Therefore he said that in moving this Amendment so far from being hostile to the principles of the Bill, he was proposing the only way in which those principles could be given effect to. In his opinion the simplest form of religious teaching did need some qualified person to impart it, and in that there was directly or indirectly some kind of test to be applied. He did not think that this argument could be carried quite so far as right hon. and hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House seemed to think, but yet it had some force. It seemed to him that there were only two alternatives apart from this Bill. The first was what he would call universal sectarianism. That was impossible. He had heard hon. Members argue as though we could in this country allow every parent to have his child taught at the public expense the religion of his own Church. He denied altogether that that was possible. What would happen would be that the Roman Catholics, the Anglicans, the Wesleyans, and other great denominations would alone enjoy this right. Did the noble Lord opposite mean to say that the Unitarians and the Swedenborgians, and all those who were outside the orthodox denominations would get them? That must be dismissed altogether. It was physically impossible. Then there was the secular system, which could not be better described than it was by the present Prime Minister on November 1st, 1902, at the Alexander Palace when he said—

> "If we had our way there would be no religious difficulty at all. We should confine ourselves, I believe nine-tenths of the Liberals would confine themselves, to secular education, and such moral precepts as would be acceptable to all and would not be obnoxious to anyone who did not come within the range of Christianity."

That was acceptable to all because it embodied what they all desired when speaking of the secular system. If his Amendment was incorporated in the Bill he was quite aware that there could not be any cast-iron rule of what secular instruction was to be, it would vary in different districts. Even the Bill provided that the Local Authority might prohibit religious instruction altogether. In practice the secular system would mean that instruction would be given in the subjects that were now known as grant-earning subjects, and no grant was now given for religious education, so that already they had the distinction drawn between secular and religious instruction. Of course, on this Amendment the charge of Godless schools would be raised, and they would be asked, "What about the Bible?" That great book was justly held in high regard in this country, but the secular system would be supplemented by a code of moral instruction which some county councils had already adopted with great advantage to the scholars. And in such moral instruction, so far from there being any desire to chase the Bible out of the schools, there would be a very real place for the Bible, from which selected passages, could be read. But in no case should it be taken as a text-book for the teaching of theology or religious belief. Was moral instruction the poor paltry thing that hon. Members appeared to think; was there not the essence of religion in moral instruction? If children were taught to be kind to their playfellows and to dumb animals; to be merciful; to be courteous to strangers, reverent to old age, and to have a great and overwhelming belief in truth, were those things very far apart from the religion of Jesus of Nazareth? There could not be any religion which had not morals for its essence. There could not be a religion which was not moral, and he was not sure that there could be any morals in which there was not religion. But they could have a great deal of dogma which was not moral. When he spoke of religion he spoke not of its form but of its spirit. He said that where morality was there was also the spirit of religion. He wished to assure hon. Members, and he knew they would accept his assurance, although they might say the effect of this proposal was contrary to it, that in moving this Amendment they had no hostility to religion. In his impressive speech the other day, the hon. Member for North Louth stated in eloquent language and with that evident sincerity which always commanded respect in this House that he placed the eternal welfare of the children above all else. He shared the view of the hon. and learned Member, and though they were as wide as the Poles asunder in their religious beliefs, he also said that the deep things of the soul were paramount, and that to him the thought of God was a supreme source of abiding satisfaction. But he denied that the eternal verities depended on rates and taxes. Children were in safer hands than those of any Church; they were in the hands of the Almighty Father himself. When hon. Members told him that the secular system was irreligious he would refer them to that great champion on religion, than whom there had never been a greater in this House, Mr. Gladstone, behind whom he and those with him on this matter were content to shelter themselves. He would say to the Roman Catholics and those who supported them, that their position, their claim for a Catholic atmosphere in their schools, bewildered and dismayed many who sympathised with them and who never parted from them except on this question. He was no Orangeman, for he thought that in Orange Lodges reason and religion were equally absent. But he endorsed, as every free democracy in every part of the world endorsed, Gambetta's famous declaration that clericalism was the enemy. France, that great country of liberal ideas, that gave to the world the first modern thought of enlightened human liberty, the great progressive country of Europe when they had disestablished the Church, met with unprecedented triumph at the polls. He said to hon. Members opposite that this Amendment offered to them neutral ground in the schools, but they demanded a Roman Catholic atmosphere.

MR. DILLON: In our own schools.

MR. MADDISON said he desired to protect all religious denominations; to do what was done in the United States at the present time. There was a world movement in this direction. The Amendment he had proposed showed no preference to any church, imposed no religious belief on any parents' child, and violated no conscience. The schools were thus left to do their proper work free from the iron grip of outside authorities. And so the future of education would be with the children, the most precious of all our treasures, and not with sects, great or small, struggling for supremacy. Whatever was the future of this Amendment, the future was theirs. He moved.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'authority' to insert the words 'And unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours nor at the public expense.'"—*Mr. Maddison.*

Question proposed: "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. LOUGH thought everyone would agree that his hon. friend had moved this Amendment in such an admirable tone of sincerity that the strongest advocate of religion in the Committee could not be in the least offended by what was said. He had presented a most difficult problem, and he would not in the least misunderstand him if he said that in some parts his hon. friend gave the Committee the idea that he was labouring hard to substantiate his case. He had said that the method he recommended to the Committee was really the only method of securing full popular control of the schools and the absence of religious tests. The Bill itself was the best evidence that the Government were totally unable to agree with this opinion. There was full popular control over the schools in Scotland, and yet religion was taught in all of them. They might, therefore, secure that end without abolishing the teaching of religion from the schools. Then with regard to religious tests they drew the clearest line between the new system to be established, providing that religious instruction should be given in a proper and fit manner, and the system that existed at the present time where the majority of the teachers were selected and subjected to tests by the representatives of one denomination. To supplement secular instruction by moral teaching and passages from the Bible, as his hon. friend suggested, would carry the Committee a long way in their consideration of the question. It was not so easy to select passages from the Bible. His hon. friend had said that he would leave the sacred interests of the children in the hands of the Almighty. But if so why not leave their temporal interests also? The hon. Member believed in Gambetta's phrase, that "clericalism is the enemy," which he deplored at the time it was uttered and which he deplored now. How did they know that clericalism was the enemy? They could not always be sure about these things. Those who wanted to see a national system of education peacefully established, as attempted in this Bill, would do their best not to use hard words, but to approach its settlement in a spirit of conciliation. The idea of the hon. Member was that religious teaching might be safely left to the influence of home discipline and the Sunday school. It was an attractive idea, but the proposal should be considered, in these days at any rate, as it bore on the realities of life and established custom. We had raised high the standard of teaching in secular subjects, and it would be scarcely appropriate in these circumstances to neglect religion altogether. No one would admit more readily than he did that all the teachers in national schools were not skilled, but they were becoming more skilled every day, and they knew the way to a child's mind better than anyone else. What would the child have to look to if the teacher did not help it? There was the parent of the child. Many of them had to acknowledge the help they had received from their parents, but all children were not so fortunate. It was not every parent who had the facilities or the knowledge to give a child instruction in a religious or any other subject. They might as well put aside humbug and admit that in a great many of what were called the homes of the country there was no facility whatever for giving religious instruction. He went a long way with those who said the State ought to come in and supply the gap if the parents failed to do it. No child was properly equipped for the battle of life who did not get somewhere simple religious instruction. He should be the last to say anything against the Sunday schools, for he was a great admirer of the great work they carried on, especially the Nonconformist schools of this country. But looking at the matter from the standpoint of the present discussion they would have to admit that the Sunday schools did not entirely fill the gap in England at all events. In Wales the Sunday school was an historic institution. All classes went to the Sunday school. The whole family attended, and the adults who did not teach the children met in Bible classes, and discussed religious problems in a way of which English Sunday schools had no experience. He did not wish to speak harshly of the work done, but all people did not go to Sunday school, and discipline was lax as compared with the day school. They ought to look at this subject not from the standpoint of the House of Commons, but from the standpoint of the child, who now saw great palaces built for him where he met a friend in his teacher, who loomed large in his mind. If no religion was taught there, it would occur to him some day that there was a strange laxity in this arrangement—that there was something wanting. He would become acquainted after school life with religious institutions and with literature largely modelled by the Christian religion. Why not instruct him in a simple way to understand the life he was afterwards to lead? He did not think that simple Bible teaching would do†. The study of that book could no more be simple than that of any other book. He did not think that the moral lesson would do either. The religious motive in which their ideas must be embodied would be wanting, and they would have to go a little further. There were those splendid council schools with the religious syllabus of which a catalogue was about to be prepared, in which it would be seen that the greatest care was taken in the selection of the passages. Then the question arose whether they could do this in an unsectarian way as was proposed in the Bill before the Committee. [Cries of "Where?" from the OPPOSITION Benches.] In the council schools. Could they give the child this teaching without dogma? It was perfectly practicable. The difficulty had also been solved in the secondary schools. Why then could it not be solved in the elementary schools? He did not think the dogmas about which they had quarrelled so much were as clear to a child's mind as to the minds of those who carried on the quarrel. A child needed simple instruction suited to its years. That could be given under the Bill. In the case of minorities, special provision should be made. If hon. Members on that side of the House asserted their own rights in this respect, they ought to respect the rights of minorities. There were provisions in the Bill intended to do away with the difficulties presented by the cases of Jews and Roman Catholics. These provisions would enable them to receive what he considered to be justice and what he hoped they would consider justice themselves.

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† During the next day's debate on this Amendment, Mr. Lough explained that he intended to say "simple Bible *reading*"—not "simple Bible *teaching*." [*Vide* Mr. Lough's statement in the course of Mr. Macdonald's speech on Wednesday, May 23rd.]

MR. WYNDHAM said he thought that all hon. Members who had heard the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education would feel that he had placed the Committee under a deep debt of obligation to him. Unfortunately, the House was now much more full than during the earlier parts of the hon. Member's speech. The speech was an impressive one, and its tone must have won its way into the hearts of all who had listened to it. What was most significant about it was that it contained the first declaration of principle they had yet heard from the Government upon this Bill. Why was it not made at the beginning instead of at the end of Clause 1? How much time and temper—[AN HON. MEMBER: Whose temper?]—might have been saved had the Committee known before that the rights of minorities were to be respected and were not to suffer. He would recall what the Parliamentary Secretary had told them. He had said that if it was right for the State to look after the temporal welfare of the children it was no less their duty to see to their spiritual welfare. He had also stated that in connection with the general system of education throughout the country it was impossible to avoid the question of religious views. The Parliamentary Secretary had pointed out that religious instruction must be a part of the general system of education in this country, and that if anything was to be taught it must be taught by skilled teachers. He had admitted that some process must be gone through in order to discover, not whether a teacher held a particular set of doctrines, but whether he was a competent and fit person to give some kind of religious instruction. The hon. Gentleman had also laid it down that if that teaching was to be given the teacher was the right person to give it. That might, indeed, not always be possible—the conscience of the teacher had to be taken into account—but as a counsel of perfection it was worthy of note. In the House they could not agree on these matters of religious instruction, and if any one stated that he attached importance to a particular kind of religious teaching it was the duty of the Government to respect his rights as a member of a minority. He agreed with the Parliamentary Secretary that in the homes of many children there were not facilities for giving religious instruction. That was quite true, and in saying that it was true he was not bringing any charge against the parents. Those who knew anything of the conditions under which parents in the great towns lived, or knew anything of life in the country, must be aware that the parents had seldom the opportunity of giving to the children that religious instruction which they desired in no less degree than any other people in the country. Particularly in England it had become a matter of practice and tradition to leave these questions very largely to teachers in schools and to the clergy. [Cries of "No" from the MINISTERIAL Benches.] That might be a bad or a good habit, but it had become almost a national habit. [Renewed cries of "No, no" from the MINISTERIAL

Benches.] He knew that in many homes the greatest care was given to these matters, but surely hon. Members knew enough of English life to be aware that in all classes and in regard to great masses of the population it was quite true that the parents were indifferent, and they thought that religious instruction would somehow be provided for their children by other people. The whole system of compulsory education throughout the country could not be suddenly revolutionised without taking note of these facts. They must recognise that facilities did not exist in many cases at home, and they must recognise that the teacher was the person who could best give religious instruction to the child. When they went so far as that what next could be said? The Parliamentary Secretary had also pointed out that, excellent though the work of the Sunday Schools was, too much weight should not be given to it. Therefore, they were bound to recognise that religious instruction must be given in the schools. The logical conclusion of the speech of the hon. Gentleman was that the Government intended to meet this difficulty by amending and extending what he might call the Clause 4 policy. He and his friends hoped that was so. The Committee had had many shadowy announcements from the Government Benches, when Amendments of Clause 1 were asked for, that it would be all right when they came to Clause 4. They must believe in the spirit of what the hon. Gentleman had said, and they ought confidently to count that minorities would be respected when they came to discuss Clause 4. When the Parliamentary Secretary spoke he was replying to the hon. Member for Burnley, who had a different solution. The hon. Member who moved the Amendment felt, as he and his friends did, that if they passed Clause 1 they were confronted immediately with the religious question, and that they could not go on discussing details of arrangements which might, or might not, be arrived at, and appeals from these arrangements to the legal machinery which was to take the place of voluntary agreement. It was not possible to deal seriously with the Bill so long as they were in doubt in this matter. Under Clause 1, what was called the Cowper-Temple system was to be established as the regular and normal form of religious instruction in the schools. That system was not satisfactory to large sections of the community. Moreover, it need not be given at all, at the discretion of the local authority. The solution of the difficulty, in the opinion of the mover of the Amendment, was the abolition of all religious instruction in the schools. The hon. Gentleman was at least right to the extent that if religious instruction was to be given at all it must be made mandatory by Parliament. It should not be left for decision to the local authorities The responsibility was with Parliament, and they ought not to shirk it. Many of the local authorities were excellent bodies, but they consisted of men occupied in other pursuits who gave their time to the work at great cost to themselves. In each county they came, it might be, to the county town once a month. They had to deal with matters which were accumulating from year to year, and now they were breaking down under the local work they had to perform. [AN HON. MEMBER: Who gave it to them to do?] That was not quite a fair interruption. If hon. Members opposite had passed a self-denying ordinance which prevented them from speaking, he did not think they should interrupt others who desired to speak. The increase of work thrown on the local authorities was not all due to the Education Act of 1902 but to all recent legislation. These bodies ought not to be asked to deal with and decide upon questions of religious controversy; their election ought not to turn on such.

Whatever the solution at which they arrived, they ought to have the courage and determination to make the plan mandatory. He agreed on these two points with the hon. Member for Burnley — that they must face the situation and be responsible for it. He appealed to the Parliamentary Secretary to accept the Amendment because it led up logically to a mandatory clause, which was the only solution of this question; and he hoped that would be the solution at which the Committee would ultimately arrive.

*Mr. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said he had listened with much pleasure to the speech of the right hon. Member for Dover, but he would have listened with still greater pleasure had the right hon. Gentleman applied himself to the Amendment before the Committee. The issue now raised was of very great importance in the country and was not a matter of verbal play between the Front Benches on either side. He would have thought that the speech of the right hon. Member for Dover would have led him to accept the position adopted by himself and his friends. The right hon. Member seemed to hanker after a solution which he was sure the majority of the Committee thought impossible, and which the country had declared to be impossible. [Opposition cries of "No."] He would not go back on what he had said, because he was perfectly certain in his own mind that the majority of the Committee considered that the country had decided in favour of Clause 1, that was to say, in favour of popular control. Under these circumstances, only two alternatives were open to the Committee—the alternative of the Bill in its main outlines presented by the Government with certain Amendments, or the alternative of the hon. Member for Burnley. He had suggested on the First Reading of the Bill that the latter solution was in sight, and everything which was going on in the Committee and in the country pointed to the fact that they were rapidly getting nearer to it. What were the facts? Different members of the different organised religions had each stated dogmatically and quite sincerely in this House that they preferred the secular solution to the solution offered by members of other religions. That had been stated for the Anglican Church by the hon. Member for Marylebone, by the Bishop of Birmingham, who had some right to speak on the question, and by a large number of other ecclesiastics. His hon. friend the Member for East Mayo stated that, although he profoundly disliked the secular solution, he preferred it to simple Bible teaching. The hon. Member for Central Hackney had stated that a vast majority of members of the Free Churches would sooner prefer the secular solution than allow denominational teaching to be given at the public expense in school hours.

Lord R. CECIL said he did not think the hon. Member was correct in the reference to himself. What he had said was that the main reason why he deplored the Bill was that it would lead to secular education.

Mr. MASTERMAN said he apologised to the noble Lord. Perhaps he had identified the noble Lord too closely with other members of his family. At any rate, it was an accepted position with a very large number of representative leaders in the country that they would prefer no religious teaching to religious teaching given by the State by untested teachers as at present in the council schools. When they got agreement such as that, he thought they were not very far from the solution which he advocated, especially when they added the practically unanimous support of the Labour Party, and the support of a very large section of the public outside all religions. Hon. Members should realise that the plain man was sick at heart of these theological storms which were raging over the heads of the children. There could be no content so long as these theological controversies continued. The Amendment declared two fundamental principles: first, that no religious teaching should be given in school hours, and second, that no religious teaching should be given at the expense of the State. The Amendment, if carried, and supplemented with a number of Amendments which would be proposed later on, did not of necessity imply that the simple reading of the Bible was not to be allowed. That simple reading was given as secular instruction in the United States and in most of the English Colonies. He himself had an Amendment on the Paper which would define "secular education" as not excluding the simple reading of the Bible. Members who accepted the secular position but who disliked to be accused of turning the Bible out of the schools, by voting for this definition could appease both their consciences and their constituencies. The proposal did not of necessity include, though it might be made to include, that simple moral teaching which some hon. Members on the Opposition side seemed to find so repugnant, but which most of those on his side earnestly desired. That could be settled after the main principle had been settled. Meanwhile they pleaded for this main principle because they were convinced that it was the only method by which they could obtain a just and final solution.

He wished to ask that in subsequent discussions there might not be raised against them the cry that they were against the Bible and against religion. Nothing could be further from the truth than that. It was unwise to give any personal testimony, and he did not want to drag his personal religious convictions before the Committee; perhaps they had had too much of that already; but he might say that this movement which they represented went back far into the nineteenth century. It owed its origin to Dr. Dale and Charles Spurgeon—men of intense devotion to the Bible and religion. It was accepted by Mr. Gladstone. In this House it was supported by men of all religions: Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Free Churchmen, Unitarians, Agnostics. All united on an agreement to tolerate each other's opinions and not to demand the public funds for the propagation of their particular beliefs. He thought the Minister for Education would agree that this was not an Amendment which should not have been raised. It was a vital question, and one which the Committee must settle one way or the other. It was one on which they were compelled to test the judgment of the Committee, and he hoped they would be allowed to test the unbiassed and impartial judgment. It was said that the system of what was called simple Bible teaching had worked well for thirty-six years. Was it necessary to answer such an argument as that? It had worked well because they had bought off all who were opposed to it, because they had gathered them into separate schools and subsidised them. Now they were going to cease to subsidise them, and to say that everybody in this country must either have this religion or no religion, that they could take it or leave it. That was a complete rearrangement of the old controversy, and under that rearrangement they had a right to say they would not have that religion, or they would not support a religion taught by the State and paid for by all members of the State, which was abhorrent to the consciences of a large number of the members of the State. Another argument was that simple Bible teaching—Cowper-Temple teaching—was the only religion which could be given under present circumstances to a very large number of the children in our elementary schools, and that it was better that these children should receive this religious teaching than no religious teaching at all. What was the actual fact in this Bill? Every one of those children, in less than a few years, would be receiving no religious instruction at all. Under Clause 6 of the Bill any child could be altogether withdrawn without any explanation from the religious teaching in the school. He thought that clause was necessary, vital to the Bill, and that the Government would be reluctant to give it up, because it seemed to him part of the foundations of the whole fabric, and if it was taken away the whole fabric would fall. But what did it actually mean in a poor district? It meant that in the weeks, months, and years to come there would be a steady and continuous pressure by which first one child and then another would be withdrawn from the religious teaching; and they would never come back again. This condition of things would not be remedied by any law against child labour, because they could not make a law against children playing in the street or girls washing up after breakfast. That pressure operated directly they removed State compulsion or the ecclesiastical compulsion of the conscience clause. Under these circumstances, it was really no good to tell them that the children who were withdrawn from the schools would at the same time receive the simple Bible teaching which it was suggested should be provided for them. In a very few years, if this Bill passed, no child would be receiving religious instruction in the schools except those children whose parents were really and eagerly desirous that they should receive it. And those parents would get religious instruction for their children even if the State withdrew it. He would say one final word about what was called simple Bible teaching. He did not want to say a word against Bible teaching. He believed it was excellent teaching, excellently given. It was definite religious teaching, definite dogmatic religious teaching. It was absurd to state that you can teach children religion except in the form of dogma, taught dogmatically. It was given according to a syllabus. It was the utilisation of the Bible by the teachers, who taught as best they could, and with what guidance they could, what they thought was the simple Protestant religion which the majority of the people believed in this country. He thought that religion had changed in this country in the last ten or twenty years, and he thought it would also be profoundly changed in the next ten or twenty years. To say that the teaching of it did not leave a religious test seemed to him a misuse of words. They were really asking teachers to give a definite religious teaching. And when they asked them to do that they were depending upon their honor to believe what they taught. It was perfectly true that the teacher could withdraw from that teaching, but he would like to know what young boy or girl just out of the training colleges, eager for promotion, would brand themselves wrongly as atheistic or eccentric by refusing to give the State religious teaching. That was a very severe religious test, the more severe because it was not defined. Those who thought that there should be no religious tests had a right to say that no Bible teaching should be given in the schools paid for by the State. Bible teaching was excellent religious teaching, but while it was an excellent religious teaching, it offended the consciences of Roman Catholics, a large number of the Anglican Church, a large number of Unitarians, a large number of those who were indifferent to religion, as well as a large number of agnostics and atheists, against whom apparently all classes of denominations were willing to combine, as always was the case when it came to squeezing an unpopular minority. His hon. friend the Member for Tyneside had spoken for hundreds of thousands of people in this country who believed that the teachings of the Book of Genesis and Joshua and certain other parts of the Bible were not only untrue, but immoral. What right had Parliament to outrage the consciences of the hon. Member for Tyneside and those for whom he spoke in compelling them to support teaching which they thought was untrue and immoral. There were many persons in the Committee who had acquiesced in what was called the passive resistance movement, and he was surprised to find how many of them were now prepared to vote for this measure. The passive resistance movement was a movement which was subjected to great ridicule, which was called silly and foolish, but it was a movement which he believed had led to the great changes in this Bill. He hoped by their votes in the lobby that night hon. Members would vote for freedom of conscience—not freedom of their own consciences. If they voted merely for freedom of their own consciences, and laid on others a burden which they themselves had found intolerable, it would be a rather squalid ending to a movement which had been full of heroic elements. It had been said that the English people would not accept this solution; he did not believe that. He believed the English people were more and more prepared to receive it. If he had been in the exalted position of the Minister for Education he certainly would have been reluctant to propose at the beginning the solution of the hon. Member for Burnley, but he would not be reluctant now to accept it. The members of the Churches had been told that this was the last effort that could be made to preserve religious teaching in the schools; and members of all the Churches had united to reject the solution. Prominent Nonconformists declared that, if one clause of the Bill were passed, they would find it hard to give up passive resistance. Bishops of his own Church were for rejecting the compromise, and were opposing it with an almost united voice, or proposed such Amendments as would make this a different Bill. Under these circumstances might it not be possible for the Government to adopt a position which they knew a large number of those who supported them were in favour of, and obtain the only solution that would be just and equal to all, and which would be final? Anything that he had tried to say imperfectly, haltingly, as it had been said inside this House and out of it, was entirely, or almost entirely, an effort to express those fundamental principles of Liberalism which they had learned from the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India. If the right hon. Gentleman would only re-publish in a compact form his thoughts on national education, and present every member of the Committee with a copy, he would not be surprised if all would be found to accept the logic of the right hon. Gentleman's argument, and accept the solution proposed by the hon. Member for Burnley. He had been driven to his conclusions not by logic—hard dry logic was the correct term—but by the logic of facts; the logic which had drawn to a similar position every State in America, Upper Canada, most of the States of Australia, New Zealand, and indeed practically every English-speaking community, who had all been confronted with the same difficulty. He was pleading for this solution because he believed it would really help the religious movement in this country, and that was a thousand times more to him than any political movement. It would make them work together. There were now Churchmen, and Nonconformists, and Roman Catholics all fighting one against another; they were charging each other with indulging in a game of grab at the public expense. If this religious educational difficulty were only removed, the different religious communities would begin to come together to work for a common end. It was this festering sore of national injustice, first to one side, then the other, which more than anything else prevented them attaining that end which they all longed for at the present time. Its removal would at once produce common action amongst those who were now hopelessly divided. They might unite on a single syllabus. They might unite in providing a simple Bible teaching, but simple Bible teaching to be given by the united religious community at their own expense and out of school hours, which was a very different thing to simple Bible teaching organised by the State to which all were compelled to contribute. The solution would at once produce common action against those large social diseases with which, after all, it was the greatest mandate to this House to deal, and the remedy for which, by this intolerable controversy, was being so mournfully delayed.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN thought he need hardly state, after what he had said already on this subject, that he was in sympathy with most of what had fallen from the hon. Member who had just sat down. He agreed they had now reached the real root question of the Bill, because this was not a Bill for education, but for settling the religious difficulty. The hon. Member for West Ham had said there were only two solutions of this question—the solution proposed by the hon. Member for Burnley and the solution proposed by the Government. The hon. Member had expressed the strongest objection, which he fully shared, to the alternative proposed by the Government. But there was an Amendment to the proposal of the hon. Member for Burnley, which might bring them even more closely together than they were now. The hon. Member for West Ham wished to achieve justice and equality—justice to minorities and to all consciences. With that object he proposed to separate religious from secular instruction. Upon secular instruction they were all agreed. But upon religious instruction they were, and must remain, at variance. Let, therefore, the professors of every religion, independently of assistance from the State, undertake this great duty. So far he entirely agreed. That was the view taken a day or two ago by the National Education League and by the late Dr. Dale, who, he continually regretted, was not still with them to give his wise counsel. He now came to the admirable speech of the Secretary to the Board of Education, who had stated in eloquent language his sense of the importance of religious and moral education for the children. He said it was impossible for them to divest themselves of this responsibility and throw it entirely upon the parent or upon the Sunday school. But this Bill, which had been propounded in order to carry out that principle, could not be accepted by those who, like the hon. Member for West Ham, desired a system which would be just and equal to all. The hon. Gentleman and the Government were trying to find a common religion. If they were dealing with this matter for the first time he should be sanguine of success in bringing together the representatives of the different denominations, and trying to find something of eminent value on which they could all be agreed. It was absolutely impossible now. The hon. Member for West Ham had pointed out that even so limited a religious teaching as the reading of the Bible with note and comment would constitute definite religious teaching, which was not acceptable at all events to a considerable minority. He did not wish to enter upon a theological disquisition, but was it possible to read certain books of the Bible, for instance Genesis and Joshua, to young children with no comment whatever? It was impossible. Without some instructive comment mere reading of the Bible would perhaps be a worse solution than reading the Bible with note and comment, which the hon. Member had shown to be impossible if they were to do justice to all consciences. The solution of the Government, then, was not one which could be accepted universally. They were dealing, not with small minorities, but with a great section of the population, with influential and important minorities, which if put together might constitute a majority of the people. It was absolutely impossible to do justice to all on the principle of the Bill. But if he accepted the alternative proposed by the hon. Member for Burnley, he did not see how they could achieve the objects desired by the hon. Gentleman the Secretary of the Board of Education. If they were going not merely to say that there should be a separation between religious and secular instruction, but practically to establish secularism, which would really be the result of the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley, he believed that not only would they be opposed by overpowering instinct on the part of the whole population, but in the mere attempt to produce what would then become almost aggressive State secularism they would be doing injustice to many consciences to whom they desired to allot absolute equality.

MR. MADDISON said that if the right hon. Gentleman attributed to him a desire to endow or establish secularism as something which was antagonistic to religion he was mistaken. He did not desire to do so.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he would not attempt to interpret the mind of the hon. Gentleman, but he would point out that if they prevented a child in school hours from receiving under any circumstances any religious instruction, even although it was not given at the expense of the State, then he should describe it as an endowment of secularism, because it was perfectly clear that there were great numbers of children who would receive no religious instruction. He need hardly dwell upon that point, because it had been fully explained by the Parliamentary Secretary. In pursuance of the opinions he had expressed in previous speeches he desired to say that he wanted to follow the hon. Member for Burnley and the hon. Member for West Ham into the division lobby upon this question. He was with him as to the absolute and entire separation of religious and secular instruction in the State schools. But when he came to consider how that might be made a practical arrangement which would secure to the children that religious and moral instruction which the hon. Member for West Ham had so eloquently advocated, then he said they could not do it under the Amendment. They must consent to allow the instruction to be given in school hours by the ordinary teachers if they were willing to give it. [Cries of "No, no," from the MINISTERIAL Benches.] He need hardly dwell upon what he had said before. He would require no test upon the appointment of a teacher, but when a teacher had been appointed he saw no reason for putting upon him an exclusion and declaring that he should not in his own time and at the expense of other people give religious instruction if he was willing to give it. He would test the matter by moving an Amendment to the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Burnley. The hon. Member did not deal with the question of the teacher, and that might arise at a later stage of the Bill. The only thing which he took exception to in the Amendment were the words "during school hours." If those words were omitted it would then read "and unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given at the public expense." If those words were omitted, he should then be in agreement with hon. Members who had spoken so far as their main object was concerned, and he only differed from them upon a point of detail. He desired that this education should be given, but not at the public expense, and he did not believe that it could be given unless they allowed the facilities which the Amendment as it stood would prevent being given. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, to omit the words 'during school hours nor.'"—(*Mr. J. Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment"

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald*)—put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Mr. J Chamberlain.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

And, it being Eleven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

Return ordered, "relating to Imperial Revenue (Collection and Expenditure) (Great Britain and Ireland) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 233, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. John Robertson.*)

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS BILL.

As amended, considered; an Amendment made to the Bill; Bill read the third time, and passed.

COMPENSATION (LICENSING).

Order [16th May] for an Address for a Return relative thereto, read, and discharged.—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

On the Motion for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY gave notice that the suspension of the Eleven o'clock rule would be moved to-morrow in order to take the financial Resolution relating to expenses under the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 23rd May, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sutton District Water Bill. Read a second time and committed.

Cork City Railways and Works Bill. Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition against: from Kings Cliffe; Melbourne; and St. Osyth; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petition against alteration of Law: from Compton Dundon (two); Coundon (two); East Keal; Esher; Finborough; Fretherne; Great Weldon and Little Weldon; Heanse; Hebden Bridge; Heywood (two); Ickenham; Lewes; Macclesfield; Milton (two); Monkwearmouth; Narberth (two); Newmarket; Pokesdown (two); Poplar; Prestwold cum Hoton; Stretford; West Bromwich; Wood Top; Shelfanger and Winfarthing; Sparsholt; Swanmore (two); and, Thornhaugh cum Wansford; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ETC., BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petition of the Metropolitan Radical Federation, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (HOURS OF POLL) BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Driffield, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of January 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Eleventh Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCANTILE MARINE (SIGHT TESTS).

Copy presented, of Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the Sight Tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1905 [by Command] to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Temporary Laws. Register of Temporary Laws for the First Session, Twenty-eighth Parliament, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, pursuant to the Report of the Select Committee on Expiring Laws in Session 1866; to be printed. [No. 180.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Ripon Post Office.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction in Ripon at the removal of the post office from the Market Place, and of the fact that the public office in the new building is a low and badly ventilated place; and whether he proposes to take any steps to alter this state of things.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am not aware that there is any general dissatisfaction in Ripon at the removal of the post office from the market place.

I understand that the ventilation of the public office is not defective. The room contains three windows, all of which can be opened, and there is a constant current of fresh air through the swing doors used by the public.

Lending of Carts by Mounted Rural Postmen.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that mounted rural postmen are frequently called upon to lend their carts to substitutes during their periods of holiday leave, and whether he will put a stop to this practice, seeing that the Post Office will not accept any responsibility for accidents due to the negligence of the substitute, and that holiday periods are the only convenient times in which rural postmen may have their carts overhauled and cleaned so as to comply with the regulations.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is sometimes convenient that a mounted rural postman on holiday leave should lend his cart to his substitute, and I see no reason to alter the practice. No difficulty arises as regards overhauling and cleaning the carts. Any claims in respect of accidents receive equitable consideration, and compensation is awarded when justified by the circumstances.

Purchase of Grazing Farm at Mile Hill, County Mayo.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board have taken any steps to purchase, from the Land Judge's Court, a grazing farm situate at Mile Hill, adjacent to the town of Ballinrobe, in the county of Mayo, the lease of which is about to expire, and which is at present let for grazing purposes to a shopkeeper named May, who resides in Ballinrobe, with a view to having it split up for the purpose of relieving congestion or creating new holdings on which some young men might be planted who have now to leave the country in search of a livelihood.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners are unable to identify the property referred to, but if the owner's name be furnished to them they will make further inquiries. The Congested Districts Board have taken no steps to purchase the property.

Withdrawals of Naval Cadets.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty having regard to the fact that out of 588 cadets who have been selected and passed by the Board of Admiralty for training at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, as many as forty-three have been withdrawn from the college on account of their inability to show satisfactory progress in training, will he state the names of the gentlemen constituting the Admiralty Board of Examiners and their qualifications for the work, especially having regard to the fact that under the old system of examination by the Civil Service Commission it was never necessary to withdraw cadets from their course of training on the score of inability to show progress; and will he state whether there is any reason why the Civil Service Commission should not conduct the whole of the entrance examinations for naval cadetships as formerly.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The examination referred to in the Question is conducted by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, whose qualifications for the work of examining young boys have been recognised by the authorities of a large number of secondary schools. The Admiralty are not aware of the names of the gentlemen employed by the Board as examiners; they vary from time to time. It is not the fact that it was never necessary that cadets should be withdrawn from the "Britannia" for failure to make satisfactory progress. The office of examining the candidates for cadetships under the new system was transferred to the Oxford and Cambridge Board because the Civil Service Commissioners did not consider that the examination of young boys, such as those entered at Osborne, properly came within the scope of their administration.

Extra Police at Ballymaclune.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is any reason for the extra police hut at Ballymaclune, county Clare, which is within a mile or two of Quin police barrack; and whether the district is not free from all crime.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the police authorities that the police hut referred to, which is about two miles from Quinn police station, is deemed to be still needed for the peace of the district. It is happily the fact that the locality is now peaceful, but it is not considered certain that it would continue to be so if the police were withdrawn.

Appointment of Mr. Michael Hobbs as Rate Collector at Ballinasloe.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a resolution passed by the County Council of Galway at their meeting on the 15th ultimo, wherein they request the Local Government Board to send, before the annual meeting to be held in June, a definite reply to their resolution of April 26th, 1906, *re* the appointment of Mr. Hobbs as rate collector for Ballinasloe district; and whether, in view of the fact that the case is eminently one in which the Local Government Board may exercise its discretion, he will take steps to see that the appointment of Mr. Michael Hobbs is sanctioned.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer to the very full reply which I gave to the Question on this subject put by the hon. Member for East Mayo on the 16th instant.†

Uneconomic Holdings at Roo.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners received a communication from a large body of tenants, residing at Roo, tenants or annuitants to the Land Commmission, pointing out that their holdings were entirely uneconomic, and asking the Commissioners to use their friendly offices with Mr. Taylor, of Castle Taylor, Gort, for the purpose of having their small holdings enlarged out of the untenanted lands in his possession in the neighbourhood; whether this communication was forwarded to the Commissioners on April 4th; and will he state when a reply may be expected.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received the communication referred to. The Commissioners have made a provisional offer for the purchase of 600 acres of untenanted land on the estate referred to, and if they should acquire the land, the application of the tenants referred to will be considered when the land is being divided.

Petition of Farmers on the O'Hara Estate.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received a petition from a number of small farmers adjoining the O'Hara Estate at Raheen, near Gort, county Galway; whether the Commissioners have investigated the matter; and will he state what steps have been taken to carry out the prayer of the petition.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they cannot identify the matter from the information in the Question.

The Home Government and Immigration in Australasia.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a statement by Mr. Seddon that communications which have passed between the Colonial Office and the Australasian Governments on the question of Australasian alien legislation show a tendency on the part of the British Government to question the right of the Austalasian Governments to control immigration; whether any communications of this character have come from the British Government; and whether it will be freely recognised by the Colonial Office that Australasia is fully entitled to legislate as may seem proper to Australasians on the question of immigration.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Secretary of State's attention has been drawn to Press reports of statements by Mr. Seddon to the effect referred to by the hon. Member, but if those reports are correct Mr. Seddon is mistaken in supposing that the Secretary of State is pursuing a policy on the subject of immigration into Australasia which differs in the smallest degree from that outlined in the proceedings of the Colonial Conference of 1897, and consistently observed both by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham and Mr. Lyttleton. The Secretary of State has every reason to believe that the Australasian Governments fully recognise that the question of immigration has a direct bearing on the external relations of those Colonies, and he has no doubt that their Governments will continue in the future, as they have done in the past, to give full weight to the views of His Majesty's Government.

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† See Col. 455.

Canadian Emigration Misrepresentation.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received a communication from Mr. Aylesworth, the Canadian Minister of Labour, relative to the misrepresentations made for the purpose of inducing emigration to Canada; whether his attention has been drawn to the debate in the Canadian House of Commons, in which the general desire was expressed that the Imperial Government should pass a law penalising such misrepresentations; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) Yes, Sir. Such a communication has been received. A Report of the debate referred to in the second part of the Question has not yet reached the Secretary of State, but the Canadian Government have officially suggested Imperial legislation to prevent false representations in this country to induce or deter emigration to Canada. This suggestion is now engaging the careful consideration of His Majesty's Government. It is proposed to publish the correspondence with the Canadian Government.

Irish Imports and Exports.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can issue annually a Report, giving particulars as to value, &c., of the various imports and exports of Ireland in each year.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) There is no objection to publishing an Annual Return if desired, showing the direct trade of Ireland with places abroad. If, however, it is desired to include trade between Ireland and Great Britain, I regret that the information is not available. I understand that the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction intend to publish some information as to the cross-channel trade which they have procured through harbour and port authorities, but that this relates to quantities only.

Roscommon Local Government Election

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.) To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the demand made by the Treasury on the County Council of Roscommon for the payment of a sum of £500, the expenses alleged to be incurred in connection with the trial of a local government election petition; whether he will state how this sum is made up, giving the items, and the principal or scale on which the payments were calculated; on what area the charge is made payable, and who fixed the area, and upon whose certificate the charge is sanctioned; and whether he is aware that the county council has made a protest against the payment of this demand, in view of the extraordinary length of the inquiry; and whether he proposes to take any notice of this protest.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Treasury has paid the sum of £544 13s. 4d. to the officers engaged on the trial of a petition arising out of an election to the Roscommon County Council.

The amount is made up of the following payments, viz., :—

	£	s.	d.
To the Commissioner who tried the petition	252	0	0
To the registrar - -	85	14	10
To the crier - - -	26	16	7
To the shorthand writer -	117	1	11
To the representative of the Attorney-General -	63	0	0
Total -	£544	13	4

The payments were calculated according to the scale prescribed by the Judges, with the approval of the Treasury, under Section 101 of The Municipal Corporations Act, 1882. The money is advanced by the Treasury upon the certificate of the Commissioner who tried the petition as to the length of time occupied, and is repayable by the county council, out of the county fund or rate, under the abovementioned Section 101, as applied by Section 75 of The Local Government Act, 1888, and Section 104 of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. I am not aware that the county council has made any protest, but I may say that the Government has no option whatever in the matter nor any power of regulating the length of the inquiry.

Half-penny Postage Regulations.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that unsealed documents which for many years have passed under the half-penny postage are now charged as being in the nature of a letter; and whether any fresh instructions authorising such change have been issued under his authority.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) There has been no recent restrictive alteration in the regulations governing the half-penny post. The hon. Member is doubtless aware that in connection with the postal reforms agreed to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and mentioned in the Budget, I am about to extend the operation of the half-penny rate.

Irish Land Purchase.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he will give a reference to any statutory provision or judicial decision of an Appeal Court restricting the Treasury and the Estates Commissioners in sales within the zones, under the Land Act of 1903, to the consideration of the gross security only, and precluding consideration of the fact that this gross security comprises the joint property of the seller and buyer, the value of whose shares has been separately ascertained; will he say where the obstacle arises to having this important question determined; which does the obstacle affect, the Treasury or the Estates Commissioners; and will the Department not affected move to have the question determined.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) The hon. Member will find in Section 1 of The Land Act, 1903, the statutory provisions which make the sanctioning of advances under the Land Purchase Acts mandatory in certain cases. There is no obstacle to any question of law which arises in the case of sales being determined by the Judicial Commissioner or the Court of Appeal.

MR. GINNELL: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland has the question been argued before and decided by the Court of Appeal in Ireland, whether the Estates Commissioners are bound to advance to a landlord selling holdings within the zones a price and a bonus calculated upon the entire value of property belonging to landlord and tenants jointly, even after they have ascertained the separate value of the respective shares, although the tenants' share has not been sold to them, it being already their own property.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) I am not aware that any case such as is suggested in the Question has been argued in, or decided by, the Court of Appeal.

The Financial Condition of Indian Population.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he is aware that the average income of the Native inhabitants of British India does not exceed ¾d. per head per day; and that over a very large area land is impoverished for want of manure, owing to the poverty of the cultivators, who cannot afford to buy stock and have to borrow money at ruinous prices of interest to pay rents and taxes; and what steps, if any, he is taking to reduce the military expenditure so that he may reduce the taxes.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I am afraid that it would be hopeless for me to attempt in a reply to a Question to deal with the issues involving matters of such enormous controversy raised by the hon. Member. The military expenditure of India is a subject that is receiving my careful attention. Meanwhile I may point out that in three out of the last four Budgets (including the one which will shortly be discussed in this House), important reductions have been made in expenditure in India, and large sums have recently been devoted to measures for agricultural improvement and instruction.

Tibetan Indemnity.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India when he expects to be in a position to give information regarding the payment of the first instalment of the Tibetan indemnity.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) As I stated on the 9th instant,† early payment of the first instalment of the indemnity may be looked for. But I have not yet heard that the payment has been made.

Althone Rifle Range—Acquisition of Lands.

MR. HAYDEN: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that at the Court of Inquiry held in Athlone in August, 1903, in regard to the value of lands taken for a rifle range adjoining that town Patrick Dignan was awarded £5, Luke Dignan £5, Mr. Heslin £10, and two brothers named Lennon £160 each; whether these sums have been paid; and, if not, will he explain the delay in carrying out the decisions of the Court in these cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The question of the validity of these claims is at present the subject of judicial proceedings pending before the Master of the Rolls.

MR. HAYDEN: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the lands of Catherine Morgan, Thomas Herrickan, and Bridget Rowan, in the townlands of Barrymore and Barrybeg, near Athlone, in the county Roscommon, were taken by the military authorities about three years ago in connection with the rifle range extension at Athlone, whether he is aware that the cases of these tenants were not heard at the arbitration inquiry held in Athlone in August 1903; whether any compensation has been given or offered to these tenants; and, if not, whether he would explain under what authority their lands have been taken from them without compensation or inquiry as to value.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) No lands were taken from the persons mentioned. They were tenants on the estate of two owners whose lands were taken, but although claiming certain rights they did not proceed with their claims.

New Forest as a Training Ground—Disturbance of Cattle and Lawns.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether during the coming military training of troops in the New Forest, instructions will be given to the military authorities to respect the rights of the Mew Forest commoners, to see that there is as little disturbance as possible of ponies and cattle, that the lawns are not cut up, and that all precautions against forest fires are taken by the troops; and further, if he also state the positions in the New Forest that will be occupied, and for how long a period?

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command will give full instructions to the troops in respect of the points raised in the Question, and I have every hope that the troops will this year be not less careful than the troops who have been there previously. The Royal Marine Artillery will be there between May and September, two Volunteer brigades between the 4th and 12th August, and a third brigade between the 4th and 18th August. All will camp on private property, but we have not yet heard from the General Officer Commanding the exact positions of the camps.

Heavy Military Traffic on Wicklow Roads

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he has received any communications from the Wicklow County Council pointing out the damage done to roads, culverts and bridges by the heavy military traffic passing to and from the Artillery camp in the glen of Imaal, and asking for compensation; and if he can now state what action he intends taking in this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The negotiations with the Wicklow County Council in regard to the by-laws for the Artillery range and the damage to the road leading thereto have, I regret to say, reached a deadlock owing to certain conditions demanded by the council. I am advised that these conditions are illegal. The offer made to the council is still open.

Imperial Ordnance Stores in Natal.

MR. D. DAVIES (Montgomeryshire): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will inform the House as to the nature and quantity of ordnance stores now in Natal belonging to the Imperial Government; and whether, in view of the delay involved in the transport of new military equipment from this country for the colonial forces, the Imperial Government has made any offer of such stores to the Natal Government; and, if not, what steps he proposes to take in the matter?

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1299.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Imperial Army ordnance depots in Natal have been cleared of stores, except the Army clothing store at Pietermaritzburg. Instructions have been sent to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in South Africa to meet as far as possible any indent on Imperial ordnance and clothing stores made by the Government of Natal, and it is understood that that Government has been so informed by their Agent-General.

Smoke Nuisance from Woolwich Arsenal.

MR. G. A. HARDY (Suffolk, Stowmarket): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that nuisance is caused throughout an extensive and thickly populated district of London by the volumes of smoke poured out of the chimneys of Woolwich Arsenal notwithstanding protests of the Woolwich Borough Council and the London County Council; that whilst at other works throughout the county, manufacturers have been compelled to adopt preventive measures, no effective measures have been adopted at the Royal Arsenal; that the recent Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration urged the importance of strictly enforcing the law against smoke nuisance, but that local authorities are seriously hampered in suppressing smoke nuisance owing to the exemption of Government works from statutory regulation; and whether he will give instructions for the adoption at Woolwich Arsenal of effective means for permanently minimising the nuisance from smoke.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The matter is one which has received and is receiving constant and careful attention, and mechanical and other means for prevention are being tried. Improvement has been made of late and efforts will be continued to effect still further improvement.

Removal of Sunken Rock from Gortnasate Harbour.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Board of Works has been called to the necessity of removing a further portion of the sunken rock in the harbour of Gortnasate, county Donegal; and whether they will cause the removal of so much as may be required to render the harbour safe, both for fishing boats and trading steamers.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am informed that the intention is to cut away this rock to a depth of six feet below low water. This will enable small boats to pass over it into the small boat harbour at all states of the tide. I understand that luggers do not use the boat harbour and that the reef will not interfere with their use of the new pier.

Sale of the Marquess of Waterford's Estate.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether in the case of the sale of the estate of the Marquess of Waterford in the barony of Gautier, county Waterford, which is mainly agricultural, the Estates Commissioners will decline to deem the agricultural portion of the estate to be an estate, in view of the attempted exclusion of the remaining tenants living in the villages of Dunmore East and Passage East from the sale, though they have urged their willingness to buy.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estate's Commissioners inform me that they will in due course consider the question of the exclusion of the villages mentioned from the sale of this estate.

Evicted Tenants on the Lindsay Estate.

MR. CONDON (Tipperary, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether in the case of the estate of P. Lindsay, county Tipperary, the Estates Commissioners have decided to ignore the claim of Mrs. Cantwell Clonwalsh, an evicted tenant, to be reinstated in her former holding, though the same is in the possession of the vendor of the estate; if not, whether they will take immediate steps to secure her restoration.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have approached the owner of the estate referred to in connection with the applications of Mrs. Cantwell and three other evicted tenants, but the owner is not prepared to part with the lands in question. The question of providing the evicted tenants with other holdings will be considered by the Commissioners if they should acquire untenanted land in the neighbourhood.

Irish Local Taxation Account—Amount to Credit County Down.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what sum stood to the credit of county Down, on 31st March, 1902, in the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account, as the produce of the accumulation of Exchequer contribution provided under Section 5 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, to be applied towards the cost of providing cottages under the Labourers Acts; what annual sums accrued to the credit of the same county on 31st March in the years of 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906, respectively; what payments have been made out of this grant, and what amount to each council or other body; and what balance now remains to the credit of the county.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The total amount carried forward on 31st March, 1902, was £12,696 11s. 1d. 1902–3. Share of county, £2,026 5s. 4d. Nothing distributed. 1903–4. Share of county, £2,027 13s. 8d. This amount was alloted to Moira Rural District, the the only qualified district, £29 being paid to the county council on behalf of the rural district council, and £1,998 13s. 8d. to the Commissioners of Public Works on foot of loans. 1904–5. Share of county, £2,027 13s. 8d., together with a sum of £614 11s. 1d., unissued balance of county percentage. Sums of £59 and £147 were paid to the county council on behalf of Downpatrick and Moira, respectively, further amounts of £4,313 3s. 3d., and £5,374 17s. 7d. being paid to the Commissioners of Public Works in reduction of the indebtness of these respective districts under the Labourers Acts, 1905–6. Share of county, £2,010 18s. 7d.

Distribution.

Rural District.	Paid to County Council.	Paid to Commissioners of Public Works.		
	£	£	s.	d.
Banbridge - - - - -	24	360	8	1
Downpatrick - - - - -	83	—		
Kilkeel - - - - -	22	330	7	5
Moira - - - - - -	201	1,000	0	0
Newtownards - - - -	262	3,934	8	0

The total amount paid, therefore, in the last there distributions in favour of rural districts in county Down is £18,138 18s., and the reserve now standing to the credit of the county is £3,264 15s. 5d.

Stamp Duty on Irish Land Purchase Agreements.

MR. LIDDELL (Down, W.) To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been directed to the fact that on a sale of a holding purchased under the Irish Land Purchase Act, stamp duty has to be paid on the conveyance not only on the purchase money paid by the purchaser to the registered owner, but also on the amount of the advance made by the Land Commission for the original purchase from the landlord; and whether, in the interests of free sale of small freeholds, he will take steps by legislation, if necessary, to ensure the stamp duty being restricted to the purchase price.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I have nothing to add to the Answers which I gave to similiar Questions on the 9th instant and March 28th last.†

Grant for Development of Irish Flax Industry.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what proportion of the grant for technical instruction in Ireland is devoted to the development and improvement of the flax industry.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) An annual sum of £3,000 is expended in connection with the improvement of the flax industry out of funds set apart for agriculture (not technical instruction). This expenditure is made partly through county committees and partly by the Department directly. The scheme to which the sum is devoted will be found in the Department's Fifth Annual Report, page 174.

Fees of Public Vaccinators.

MR. J. JOHNSON (Gateshead): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has power of himself to reduce the fees paid to public vaccinators, without having to appeal to Parliament or any other authority; and, if so, will he arrange for such reduction.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Local Government Board are empowered in their own discretion to make rules and regulations with respect to the remuneration of public vaccinators. I am giving consideration to the regulations on this subject.

Weighers at the Felling Colliery.

MR. J. JOHNSON: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that at the Felling Colliery, in the county of Durham, the manager is employing other workmen than the ordinary weigher to test the weighing machine; and whether he will inquire into the matter with a view to prevent a recurrence of the same.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have made inquiry into the matter, and am informed that in consequence of some trouble having been experienced in keeping the machine in order, and of its accuracy being questioned by the Inspector of Weights and Measures, the manager of the mine instructed the "heap inspector," or surface foreman, to test the machine occasionally. There is nothing in the Act to prevent this being done; it is left open to the management of the mine to satisfy itself as to the accuracy of the weighing machines in whatever way it thinks fit. The only statutory requirement in the matter is that facilities for examining and testing the weighing machines are to be given to the check-weigher, and this I understand is done. I have no power to interfere in the matter.

The Police Commission—Evidence of Monsieur et Madame d'Angely.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if steps have been taken to ensure the attendance and evidence on oath before the Police Commission of the complainants known as Monsieur et Madame d'Angely.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) No steps can be taken for this purpose until the Bill conferring powers on the Commission has received the Royal Assent, but if these persons are outside the jurisdiction of the Commission it is obvious that no steps can be taken to compel their appearance.

The Police Commission and the Police.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the police will be entitled to be represented by counsel before the Royal Commission; and, further, if they will be entitled to defend themselves against the charges which have been brought against them.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The Commission will have power to permit the police to be represented by counsel. I am confident that they will allow them full opportunity to defend themselves against the charges which have been made.

Winton Post Office, Bournemouth.

SIR ROBERT HOBART: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state what emoluments are considered necessary for the conversion of a sub-postmastership to an office on the head establishment; and whether, in view of the prospective growth of Winton, Bournemouth, he will consider the advisability of placing that office on an established scale.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1293; cliv., 1288.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The question of the conversion of an ordinary sub-postmastership into an office paid on the head office system is not decided solely on the amount of the emoluments. If the business of the post office at Winton, Bournemouth, increases as considerably as the hon. Member seems to expect, the question of placing the office on the head office system will be again considered.

Extension of Hours—Irish Licensed Hotels.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can state with whom rests the discretion to grant occasional or conditional licences for extension of hours in hotels in provincial towns in Ireland; and whether, in view of the uncertainty at present prevailing, he will issue a circular setting forth whether a permit from a justice of the peace in the petty sessions district will be accepted by the authorities.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) Exemption orders, in respect of premises already licensed, enabling them to be kept open (with some limitations) during prohibited hours may be issued by two or more justices of the peace in petty sessions. Occasional licences, permitting the owners of licensed premises to sell at other places than the licensed premises, for limited times, may be issued by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue with the consent in writing of one justice of the peace usually acting at the petty sessions for the district within which the place of sale is situated. I see no reason for issuing a circular explaining the law, which can be easily ascertained by consulting any text book on the Licensing Acts.

The United States and the Importation of Hay and Straw from the Argentina.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the United States has prohibited the importation into that country of hay and straw from Argentina, because of the risk of infection from foot-and-mouth disease; and whether a similar precaution will be taken in this country in the case of all countries where any infectious disease is known to exist.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) We have no information that the United States have prohibited the importation of hay or straw from Argentina, and we do not consider that such action is necessary in this country. The evidence of actual danger is not clear, and the inconvenience to the trades concerned would be out of proportion to the risk involved. The Foreign Animals Order of 1903 provides for the seizure, detention, or destruction of hay or straw in specific cases in which there is reason to believe that there is a danger of the introduction of disease thereby.

Schools Transferred under the Elementary Education Act, 1870.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he will state the number of voluntary schools, and also the number of school places therein, which have been transferred to or taken over by the authorities for the time being for elementary education since the passing of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, distinguishing the respective denominations to which, before transfer, such schools belonged.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I must refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 1st May to a Question on this subject from the hon. Member for Cricklade.† I have no information beyond what was then given.

Proposed Transfer of Summer Head-quarters of the Punjab Government.

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether any decision has been arrived at as to the proposed transfer of the summer head-quarters of the Punjab Government from Simla to Dalhousie.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley*) The question as to the proposed transfer is still under consideration.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 411.

Meat Contracts for Troops in Ireland.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the late Government arranged that native meat should be supplied for five days in the week to troops stationed in Ireland; whether he is aware that the paupers and lunatics are fed upon home produce; whether he can state the reasons which caused the withdrawal of the first meat contract tender issued for Ireland, and the substitution of the word home-killed instead of home-bred; and whether it is usual to make such a change without consultation or notice to the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane*) As regards the first paragraph, no exceptional arrangement was made for Ireland by the late Government. The tender-forms are the same for all parts of the United Kingdom. As regards the second paragraph, the War Office has no knowledge of this subject. As regards the third paragraph, I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave him on 14th May.† As regards the last paragraph, the reply is in the affirmative.

Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill.

MR. FIELD: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the majority voting in favour of the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill, he will enable an arrangement to be made to resume discussion in order to send the Bill to the Grand Committee on Law, or whether the Government will introduce a measure this session to carry out the opinion of the House and the demand for immediate legislation by Irish elective bodies upon this question.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) The sympathy entertained by the Government with some of the provisions of this Bill was expressed in debate last Friday, but in the present state of public business I fear that it is impossible to make any promise to give Government time to any private Member's Bill.

Irish Land Purchase—The Blake-Foster Case.

MR. GINNELL: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in considering financial operations under the Irish Land Act of 1903, his attention has been called to the decision in the Blake-Foster case, which was to the effect that although most of the tenancies were judicial and the prices within the zones, and although landlords and tenants were represented in Court in support of the agreements, the Estates Commissioners had power to disallow the price, on the ground of excessive amount, and had properly exercised that power.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) The decision referred to was to the effect that the Estates Commissioners may refuse to declare lands held under judicial tenancies to be an estate for the purposes of The Irish Land Act, 1903, upon the ground merely that the security for the advances applied for is, in their opinion, insufficient.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Canadian Mail Service.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any, and, if so, what portion of the cost of conveyance of mails to and from Canada is borne by this country.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Mr. CHURCHILL): I have to refer the hon. Member to the Answer given by the Postmaster-General to a similar Question by the hon. Member for Galway on the 12th of March last.‡

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): Is the hon Gentleman aware that for thirty years the steamers in this service have called at Moville or some other Irish port in order to land or receive mails, but that under the new contract no Irish port is to be called at?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That hardly arises out of the Question on the Paper.

Australasian Alien Legislation.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of

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† See Col. 172.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cliii., 873.

State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a statement by Mr. Seddon, that communications which have passed between the Colonial Office and the Australasian Governments on the question of Australasian alien legislation show a tendency on the part of the British Government to question the right of the Australian Governments to control immigration; whether any communications of this character have come from the British Government; and whether it will be freely recognised by the Colonial Office that Australasia is fully entitled to legislate as may seem proper to Australasians on the question of immigration.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Mr. CHURCHILL): The Secretary of State's attention has been drawn to Press reports of statements by Mr. Seddon to the effect referred to by the hon. Member; but if those reports are correct Mr. Seddon is mistaken in supposing that the Secretary of State is pursuing a policy on the subject of immigration into Australasia which differs in the smallest degree from that outlined in the proceedings of the Colonial Conference of 1897, and consistently observed both by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham and Mr. Lyttelton. The Secretary of State has every reason to believe that the Australasian Governments fully recognise that the question of immigration has a direct bearing on the external relations of those Colonies, and he has no doubt that their Governments will continue in the future, as they have done in the past, to give full weight to the views of His Majesty's Government.

Chinese Crime in the Transvaal.

*MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the danger to the lives and property of British subjects in the Transvaal caused by the crimes of the Chinese coolies imported for the gold mines, and the admitted inability of the Transvaal Government to maintain law and order, His Majesty's Government will appeal to the mining companies not to import more Chinese coolies into the Colony.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Mr. CHURCHILL): The Secretary of State does not accept the statement that the Transvaal Government are unable to maintain law and order. On the contrary, Lord Selborne has telegraphed that he hopes to effect a complete cure.

*MR. MACKARNESS: Is the hon. Member aware that Lord Selborne stated that, owing to the failure of the police to protect subjects from the outrages of the coolies, it would be necessary to serve out rifles to every white man within a radius of ten miles of the Rand? Is that maintaining law and order?

MR. RUNCIMAN: The statement I have read out is Lord Selborne's most recent declaration.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the increasing number of outrages by Chinese coolies in the Transvaal, His Majesty's Government will consider the wisdom of repeating the suggestion made to the High Commissioner by the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, that it would be good policy for the mine-owners voluntarily to stop importation for the next six months.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Mr. CHURCHILL): The importation under the licences valid at the time His Majesty's Government assumed office and under which alone further importation was permitted to take place are believed to be now nearly exhausted, and the Secretary of State does not therefore think that the suggestion of the hon. Member could have any practical effect.

MR. BYLES: How many licences are there outstanding?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I cannot give the exact figures.

Great Britain and China.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottinghamshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when he expects to be in a position to lay upon the Table the terms of the Convention between Great Britain and China which was signed at Pekin on April 27th; and whether he proposes to present Papers on the subject.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Sir EDWARD GREY): Provision is made in the Convention for the exchange of ratification within three months of signature, and as soon as it is ratified the Convention will be presented to Parliament. It does not seem necessary to lay any other Papers on the subject.

The Congo.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Woodstock Division of Oxfordshire I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that the evidence laid before the Congo Commission of Inquiry, which is in the possession of His Majesty's Government, is not in the hands of Members of this House, and, further, that Consul Mackie was specially instructed to attend the sittings of the Commission, His Majesty's Government will reconsider their refusal and make this evidence accessible to Members.

MR. McKEAN (Monaghan, S.): Before answering the Question, will the hon. Gentleman be good enough to inform the House whether it is not the fact that the non-publication of the evidence laid before the Congo Commission of Inquiry was due to the express wish of that Commission itself, as recorded in its Report, and consequently that the withholding of this evidence is in no way due to the action of the Congo Government?

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.), on a point of order, asked whether this Question, affecting a Sovereign State over which this country had no control whatever, was the kind of Question that ought to be put in the House.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Considering what has already been sanctioned with regard to the suppression of the Natal rebellion, has this country any justification for interfering?

*MR. SPEAKER: We do occasionally have Questions relating to affairs of another Sovereign State put in this House. For instance, Questions relating to Turkey and Macedonia are constantly put. Therefore I cannot rule the Question out of order.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Sir EDWARD GREY): I cannot answer the Supplementary Questions without notice. Mr. Mackie was not able to join the Commission until February 4th, 1905, and was consequently not present at any of the sittings held in the districts which had been the scene of the abuses reported to the late Government. His report of the evidence taken at the three sittings at which he was present subsequent to that date does not contain information of sufficient importance to justify its publication by itself.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Perhaps the Government will now furnish to the Belgian Government an explanation of its conduct in the Transvaal.

Rev. E. Stannard's Case.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have reason to believe that one of the charges brought against the Reverend Edgar Stannard in the Upper Congo is that of having referred in a published letter to the evidence laid before the Congo Commission of Inquiry regarding the administration of the official by whom Mr. Stannard is now being prosecuted; and if His Majesty's Government will ensure that that evidence, publicly tendered in open Court, will be accessible to Mr. Stannard for his defence?

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Sir EDWARD GREY): The Papers which I have received on the subject do not enable me to give a definite opinion as to the exact nature of the charges brought against Mr. Stannard. It is not in the power of His Majesty's Government to ensure that the evidence referred to in the latter part of the Question shall be accessible to Mr. Stannard, but if Vice-Consul Armstrong reports that Mr. Stannard is prejudiced in his trial by inability to obtain access to documents which are in the possession of the prosecution, representations will at once be addressed to the Congo Government.

Hague Conference.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the meeting of the Second Hague Conference has been definitely postponed till 1907.

MR. RUNCIMAN (for Sir EDWARD GREY): The date has not been definitely postponed till 1907, but it is not fixed yet.

Unemployed Workmen's Act Amendment Bill.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether in the amended Unemployed Workmen's Act, promised in the King's Speech this year, it is intended to incorporate provisions for afforestation, sea coast erosion, reclamation of waste lands, improvement of the port and docks of London, the acquirement of land for farm colony purposes, and the co-ordination of the relief works of local authorities; and further, whether provisions will be incorporated in the amending Bill to make a charge on the National Exchequer for the purposes named.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I am afraid that I cannot give any intimation as to what the provisions of the Bill will be.

Vaccination Statistics.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the clerks to health authorities in England and Wales carry out the duty imposed on them by Section 8 of the Vaccination Act, 1898, and register the condition as to vaccination of all small-pox patients treated in hospitals maintained by such authorities; and, if so, whether the omissions of medical men to enter in the death certificates relating to such deaths the vaccinal status of 308 out of 507 deaths from small-pox, as recorded in the 67th Report of the Registrar-General for 1904, can be rectified by reference to the aforesaid registers so as to show accurately how many of the deaths recorded by the Registrar-General were deaths of vaccinated persons.

MR. JOHN BURNS: So far as I am aware the records required by the section are usually kept. But a reference to them would not show the vaccinal status of all the persons mentioned in the Registrar-General's Report as having died from small-pox. The section only relates to small-pox hospitals maintained by sanitary authorities, and it is known that in a considerable number of cases the deaths did not occur in these hospitals.

School Attendance of Pauper Children.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisability of altering the regulation at present in force in regard to certifying the school attendance of children of parents who are in receipt of Poor Law relief, so as to avoid the stigma of pauperism which now attaches to such children by the necessity of their obtaining a teacher's signature to an attendance card issued by the guardians as a condition of the continuance of relief to their parents.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The practice referred to is not prescribed by any regulations of the Local Government Board, but has been adopted in order to facilitate the carrying out of Section 40 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, which requires that the provision of education to a child shall be a condition of the continuance of outdoor relief to the parent. I have, however, already drawn the attention of my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education to the matter, and I hope that this section will be repealed and not re-enacted by the Education (Consolidation) Bill now before the House. The arrangement mentioned in the question would then cease.

The Unemployed.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the number of men and women starving throughout the country, in consequence of their being unemployed, and in view of the proved inadequacy of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, he will send out a circular of instruction, similar to that sent out by the President of the Local Government Board in 1886, calling upon the local authorities to at once put in hand public works of utility in order to meet the public need, as represented by the unemployed workers.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The circular referred to was issued at a time of very exceptional distress which was partly due to weather of long continued severity. We have now reached a season of the year which is favourable to employment, and, according to the latest information, employment on the whole appears to be improving. I cannot say I think it desirable to issue now a circular of the kind suggested.

MR. THORNE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that distress to-day is just as bad as it was in 1886, when that circular was issued?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am glad I cannot confirm the hon. Member in that statement.

MR. O'GRADY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there are no fewer than 5,000 men now registered as being unemployed in the borough of West Ham alone?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I do not know.

MR. THORNE: Are there not 6,000 more people receiving Poor Law relief than there were two years ago?

MR. O'GRADY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the state of the building trade is more deplorable now than it has been for the last fifteen years?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am glad to say that the condition of the building trade is improving rapidly. It is not so bad as it was at the period mentioned by the hon. Member for West Ham, and everything shows a disposition of the building trade to join that prosperity which I am glad to say is becoming general with the bulk of trades.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a few days ago 10,000 men demonstrated their need of employment in London alone? Is not that a sufficient reason for issuing the circular asked for?

MR. JOHN BURNS: No. I consider that you do harm to the districts when circulars which should only be issued on exceptional occasions are issued regularly. In fact, the issue of these circulars with regularity rather defeats the object which all of us have in view.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: When was the last re-issue of the circular in question?

MR. THORNE: When the President of the Local Government Board made that famous speech in 1886 he stated himself that there were about 5,000,000 of people on the verge of starvation, and the present Prime Minister a few weeks ago said that there were 13,000,000 of people on the verge of starvation.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I never said it.

MR. THORNE: It was reported at the time.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The hon. Member's statement with regard to myself is equally incorrect.

MR. THORNE: I have the evidence to prove it in my pocket.

Irish Trade Returns.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can issue annually a report, giving particulars as to value, etc., of the various imports and exports of Ireland in each year.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): There is no objection to publishing an Annual Return, if desired, showing the direct trade of Ireland with places abroad. If, however, it is desired to include trade between Ireland and Great Britain, I regret that the information is not available. I understand that the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction intend to publish some information as to the cross-channel trade which they have procured through harbour and port authorities, but that this relates to quantities only.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: The reports published annually by the Board of Trade do not give any indication whatever of the trade of Ireland either with England or other countries; cannot something be done to let Ireland know how she stands in the matter?

MR. KEARLEY: I will inquire.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the Customs authorities could afford very great facilities to the Board of Trade if instructed to do so?

MR. KEARLEY: Probably they can. We will see what can be done.

Messrs. J. and P. Coats, Limited.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been directed to the fact that in anticipation of a meeting advertised to be held in Paisley on Tuesday, May 8th, for the purpose of organising a trade union amongst their female employees, and with a view to coercing their employees not to become trade unionists, Messrs. J. and P. Coats, Limited, the proprietors of the British Sewing Thread Trust, circulated on Friday, May 4th, and Saturday, May 5th, in the Scotch newspapers, a paragraph announcing their intention of abandoning the extension of the Ferguslie Thread Works, plans of which had passed the Dean of Guild Court, and to establish the new mill in a foreign country; whether he has made any representations to Messrs. J. and P. Coats, Limited, on the subject; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. KEARLEY: Messrs. J. and P. Coats, Limited, inform me that they are considering the question of erecting a new mill abroad in continuance of a long established policy, and I understand that a projected extension of a mill at Paisley may be abandoned. The company deny the accuracy of the statements in the question as to the reasons for their action. The matter is not one with regard to which the Board of Trade have any jurisdiction.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: Is the hon. Member aware that Messrs. J. and P. Coats themselves circulated the statement that they resented outside interference, and that outside interference consisted of calling meetings of their employees?

MR. KEARLEY: Messrs. Coats deny that statement.

Motor 'Bus Fatalities in the Walworth Road.

*MR. S. COLLINS (Lambeth, Kennington): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that four persons were killed in the Walworth Road and many others injured by motor 'buses in the week ending May 12th; and will he consider the devising of some measure whereby this new mode of traffic may be so controlled as to avoid danger to the public.

MR. KEARLEY: The Hon. Member appears to have been misinformed, for I understand that there was no fatal accident in the Walworth Road in the week ending May 12th, and only one case of slight personal injury caused by motor omnibuses, came to the knowledge of the Police during that or the preceding week. In the week ending the 5th instant, there were two fatal accidents caused by motor omnibuses in the Walworth Road.

The Treasury and the Carmarthen Trade Dispute.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that in a number of cases tried at the quarter sessions for the county of Carmarthen, on January 5th last, the Treasury instructed a local solicitor to brief a King's Counsel to prosecute; whether he is aware that the prosecution in such cases was for intimidation arising out of a trade dispute; and whether he will state the circumstances which made it advisable for the Treasury to intervene.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) replied that the Director of Public Prosecutions, to whose Department the Question referred had informed him he was urged by the local police to take up the prosecution mentioned in the Question and declined to do so, but he authorised the employment of a K.C., in order to ensure that the prosecution should be in the hands of counsel of experience and standing, who might, if he thought proper, withdraw it The implication in the Question that the Public Prosecutor was animated by some desire to ensure a conviction, was unfounded and entirely contrary to the fact.

Motor Fishing Boats

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the recently issued Report of the Scottish Congested

Districts Board, in which is contained a special Report of the experiment, carried out by the "Pioneer," of using a motor as an auxiliary for fishing boats, and to the statement on page 24 that the experiment will be continued in the present year, so that the boat may, as far as possible, be in evidence where the fishermen are busiest; and whether the Irish Congested Districts Board or the Department of Agriculture will carry out a similar experiment on the West Coast of Ireland.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): I beg to refer to the reply which I gave yesterday to the similar Question of the hon. Member for West Kerry.† The Department of Agriculture have already made a loan for the installation of a motor engine in a fishing boat. If the result should prove satisfactory the Department are prepared to issue further loans for the purpose, and to provide instruction in suitable cases. The Congested Districts Board are also watching the experiments which are being made, and in the meantime do not intend to take any action.

Fines and Penalties Office, Dublin.

MR. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what were the original purposes to which the money standing to the credit of the Fines and Penalties Office, Dublin, was to be applied; whether, seeing that under the Local Government Act, 1898, county councils are bound, out of the local rates, to provide, maintain, pay rent for, and furnish with all necessary requisites county and other court houses, for use by the tribunals from whose proceedings these fines and penalties are imposed, if the allocation of this money, now amounting to £170,250, is being considered, the claims of the county councils will be entertained to have the money applied to recoup past expenditure and to relieve the rates in future from the expenditure of maintaining court and session houses; and if he is aware that the charge on the County Council of Queen's County under this head amounts to £414.

MR. BRYCE: According to the existing statutes, the purposes to which the funds standing to the credit of the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks Department are to be applied include the payment of the salaries and pensions of petty sessions clerks and the head-quarters staff, the audit of accounts, and generally the expenses incurred in carrying out the Fines (Ireland) Act, 1851, and the Petty Sessions Clerks (Ireland) Act, 1858. It is not proposed to allocate any portion of these funds for the purpose mentioned in the Question.

Irish Land Commission—Appointment of Mr. Wilkinson.

MR. MEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wilkinson to an office in the Irish Land Commission at a salary of £300 per annum, if he will explain why, if there arose a necessity for such an office, the position was not given to one of the staff, seeing that the bringing in of strangers and placing them in high positions over the heads of officers with long service retards promotion; was not one of the staff qualified to fill this post; is there a rule that each clerk employed must pass the Civil Service examination; if so, will he say if Mr. Wilkinson passed or gave any proof of qualification except a recommendation from a land agent's office; and will he say what was the date of the appointment, and the name of the land agent's or other office where he was formerly employed.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Land Commission that before this appointment was made the qualifications and merits of the existing staff were fully considered, and that in selecting Mr. Wilkinson to fill the post regard was had to the work to be performed and the efficiency of the public service. Mr. Wilkinson is not a permanent civil servant, and consequently he was not required to obtain a civil service certificate. He was appointed on December 15th, 1905, and prior to his appointment was employed in the office of Messrs. J. R. Stewart & Sons, Land Agents, Dublin.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Does the right hon. Gentleman officially sanction this flagrant job?

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† See Col. 1136.

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware that the facts justify that description.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Of whom in this office is Mr. Wilkinson a poor relation?

[No Answer was returned.]

Royal Irish Constabulary—Crimes Branch.

MR. MEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the total cost per annum of the Crimes Branch of the Royal Irish Constabulary, what is the total amount of salary and allowances given to the county inspector, the district inspector, the sergeant and constables at head quarters and the thirty-seven men attached to this branch of the service; what is the special duty which they are charged with discharging; will he lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the Reports supplied under this head of service; does their work mainly consist in attending and reporting Nationalist meetings, shadowing and reporting on the actions of Nationalist representatives and local leaders, and the proceedings generally of the Nationalist organisation; and whether, in view of the crimeless state of Ireland, as testified by official Returns and the charges delivered by the several judges of Assizes, will the Government discontinue this branch of the service and apply the money so wasted to some useful purpose.

MR. BRYCE: The total amount of the salaries and allowances of the officers and men of the Crimes Branch is £5,800. The work of the Branch consists of criminal investigation. It would be entirely contrary to practice to lay upon the Table copies of reports made by the police for the information of the Inspector-General. It is no part of the duty of the Branch to attend and report upon Nationalist meetings, or to engage in the other operations mentioned. I have already informed the hon. Member that it is deemed necessary to continue the branch.

MR. FLYNN asked if this £5,800 was charged against the Secret Service Fund or on the constabulary vote.

MR. BRYCE asked for notice.

Fraudulent Trading Prosecutions.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state, with reference to the Statement on page 118 of the recently issued Report of the Irish Department of Agriculture, how many prosecutions were instituted by associations of Irish manufactures against dealers who sold, as Irish manufacture, articles not manufactured in Ireland; how many of these prosecutions were instituted in Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales respectively; how many were successful and how many unsuccessful; and can he state how many of these associations of Irish manufacturers are in existence.

MR. BRYCE: The cases referred to were those in which proceedings were instituted by the Belfast Flax Spinners' Association and the Bacon Curers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland against traders in England for applying false trade descriptions to certain goods. The information upon which the statement in the Report was based was mainly derived from reports that appeared from time to time in the public Press. At least six prosecutions were undertaken by the Belfast Spinners' Association, and convictions were obtained in four cases. The total number of prosecutions instituted by the Bacon Curers' Association for the sale of American bacon as Irish is not definitely known. In two cases which came under notice convictions were obtained. The Department understand that these associations are still in existence.

MR. FLAVIN: Why is the onus of initiating prosecution thrown on the poor manufacturer? Why did not the Government undertake it?

MR. BRYCE: The functions of the Government in this matter are limited by statute, and I presume it has no power to initiate prosecutions.

Irish Royal University.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will now lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence which passed between the Government and the Senate of the Royal University with reference to the disorderly and disloyal proceedings at the last conferment of degrees, together with the minutes of the Senate in reference to this matter, and the opinion of the Irish Law Officers of the Crown; and whether he will state what steps the Senate of the Royal University are taking to prevent further manifestations of disloyalty.

MR. BRYCE: The Senate of the Royal University have directed the preparation of a statement of the proceedings in reference to this matter, and when that has been received, the question of laying it and the correspondence upon the Table will be considered. I have already stated that it is not the practice to lay upon the Table the opinions of Law Officers. I am informed that the Senate have directed the preparation of such statutes and regulations as may be necessary to provide the means of enforcing academic discipline and punishing academic misconduct.

Royal University of Ireland—The Chancellorship.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is yet in a position to announce the name of the successor to the Earl of Meath in the Chancellorship of the Royal University of Ireland; and if not, if he will state the reason for the delay in making this appointment.

MR. BRYCE: This subject has received full consideration, and an announcement regarding it will, I trust, be made within a few days.

Boycotting and Crime, Return for Ireland.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of cases of boycotting, intimidation, shooting outrages, and malicious destruction of property reported to the Irish Constabulary during the months of January, February, and March, this year; and the number of arrests made, prosecutions instituted, and convictions obtained as the result of their investigation of these cases.

MR. BRYCE: The Inspector-General informs me that in the period mentioned there were eight cases of boycotting. The number of cases of intimidation, exclusive of threatening letters, was six; and in one of these cases the accused was arrested, prosecuted, and convicted. The number of cases of firing at the person and into dwelling houses was fourteen. Eight of the offenders were arrested and prosecuted; three of these were convicted and one committed suicide. There were eighty-one cases of malicious destruction of property, including incendiary fires. Sixteen persons were arrested and five summoned, making twenty-one prosecuted; seventeen of these were convicted, one died, one is awaiting trial, and two were discharged.

Irish County Councils Association.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the claim put forward by the General Council of the County Councils of Ireland that the Department of Agriculture shall be totally separated from the English Government and be nominated by the General Council of Irish Councils, and be answerable to and under its control, he will inquire into the history and present composition of the Nationalist organisation making this claim, whose right to speak for the whole of the Irish councils has been formally repudiated by most of the county councils in the North of Ireland.

MR. BRYCE: My time is so fully occupied by urgent Questions of practical moment that I cannot spare any for the historical investigation upon which the hon. Member invites me to enter.

MR. LONSDALE: The investigation can hardly be considered historical, as it would only go back a few months.

MR. BRYCE: I used the hon. Gentleman's own words in describing it.

Ardara (Donegal) Evicted Tenant.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the fact that the Mill holding at Ardara, county Donegal, for years in the possession of the Evans family, was taken possession of by the landlord, by whom the tentant, Mr. Evans, was evicted through inability to pay the rent in 1885, the offers of settlement made by the tenant short of payment of the full rent and the costs being refused by the landlord, although two attempts of the tenant to dispose of the holding by auction failed; whether he is aware that this holding remained vacant till October, 1904, when a petty sessions clerk, named Hugh Kennedy, was put into possession by Mr. Tredennick, the landlord, at a nominal rent; and whether having regard to the fact that the former tenant, on the passing of the Land Act of 1896, made an application for reinstatement, and has now made application to the Estates Commissioners for reinstatement, steps will be taken to secure the reinstatement of Mr. Evans in this holding.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received an application for reinstatement as an evicted tenant from Mr. John Evans, who states that in 1885 he was evicted from a corn and flax mill, with house and one and a half acres of land on the estate referred to. The Commissioners have no further information in the matter, but it does not appear to them that the holding in question is one to which the Land Law Acts apply, and the case would not, therefore, come within the provisions of Section 2 of the Act of 1903. In reply to a further question as to whether this case could not be brought under the definition section Mr. Bryce said it was a question of law and the Estates Commissioners had apparently decided that the case was not one they could deal with.

Leahy Estate, near Cahirciveen.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application from the tenants on the Leahy estate at Aghatubrid, near Cahirciveen, requesting that an inquiry should be held before the sale is sanctioned; and, if so, whether immediate steps will be taken to comply with this request, in view of the terms set out in that application.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received the memorial referred to, and have informed the memorialists that the matter mentioned in the memorial will be duly considered by the Commissioners when dealing with the estate.

Mr. BOLAND: Will the inquiry be instituted immediately?

Mr BRYCE: I gather so

Irish Imports.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the value of foreign bacon, beef, and mutton imported into Ireland during the year 1905.

Mr. BRYCE: The particulars for the year 1905 are not yet available. It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture that in the year 1904 the value of the articles mentioned imported into Ireland were, approximately, as follows:—Bacon and hams, £1,635,000; beef, £80,000; mutton, £22,000. It is possible that, in addition, certain quantities of bacon, beef, and mutton were shipped into the country under the general heading of "provisions." The figures given represent imports both from foreign countries direct and from Great Britain. It is impossible, however, to determine accurately the amount of these imports which is of foreign origin, because many of the imports into Ireland from foreign countries come by way of Great Britain.

Fitzwilliam Estate, Wicklow.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an inspector of the Land Commission, named W. H. Kyle, has visited the tenants of the Fitzwilliam estate, county Wicklow, warning them that if they will not accept the landlord's terms of purchase they will lose their chance of buying their holdings; and, if so, will he take steps to prevent such persons from trying to force tenants to purchase their holdings at excessive prices.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that they have received a report from the inspector named, stating that he gave no such warning as is mentioned in the first part of the Question, and neither felt nor showed any partiality. In the course of his inspection he suggested to the tenants who had not signed purchase agreements, that they should endeavour to come to terms with the vendor at a price which they could accept, in order that the sale of the estate might be completed without delay.

In reply to a further question the right hon. Gentleman said he believed that in some cases the Inspector recommended a reduction of the price.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: He went a good deal further than that.

Warden Estate, Sneem.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that not a single evicted tenant has been reinstated on the Warden estate, at Sneem; and can he state by whom the information was supplied that twenty-five evicted tenants had been reinstated.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that originally the landlord agreed to sell some 2,000 acres to twenty-five evicted tenants, and purchase-agreements in these cases were signed and lodged. Subsequently the landlord agreed to sell the whole of his estate to the Commissioners and proceedings were initiated accordingly, the former proceedings being dropped and these substituted. The new proceedings have been delayed by difficult legal questions which have now been decided, and the matter is being expedited as much as possible. The evicted tenants have not yet been actually placed in possession, pending sanction of the advances.

MR. BOLAND: A week or two ago we were told that twenty-five tenants had be reinstated. From whom was that information received? Was it the police sergeant?

*MR. BRYCE: I do not think so.

MR. FLAVIN: How came such a statement to be made?

*MR. BRYCE: It was hoped at the time that the pending negotiations would have a successful issue.

Irish Teachers' Salaries.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the average salary paid to English, Scotch, and Irish principal teachers respectively for the year 1905; whether there is any difference between the work done in the three countries by those men, and, if so, what; whether the qualifying certificate of the Irish trained teacher is not as difficult as that in England and Scotland; whether, in addition to being more poorly paid than his English and Scotch brothers for doing the same work, the Irish teacher is at the same time, by the rules of the National Board, deprived of all civil rights, though they are fully enjoyed by English and Scotch teachers in common with the rest of the community; and whether, in view of the condition of Irish primary education, steps will be taken to have the whole subject thoroughly inquired into by a Committee of this House.

*MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the figures as to the average salaries of teachers in the year 1905 are not yet available, but upon this point I may refer to the reply which I gave on the 7th inst. to the Question of the hon. Member for East Kerry.† It would not be practicable, in reply to a Question, to enter upon the consideration of the comparative qualifications of teachers in the three countries, or of the work done by them. I have already stated that in the opinion of the Commissioners the larger salaries paid in Great Britain are mainly due to the greater amount of local aid given, and to the fact that the schools are relatively larger and less numerous than in Ireland. National school teachers are not permitted to hold office as district councillors or Poor Law guardians, but I am not aware that they are deprived of any other civil rights. The question of the teachers' salaries will, as I have already stated, receive consideration—it is primarily a matter for the National Board. I am not prepared to say that an inquiry by a Committee of this House would be a proper mode of dealing with the matter.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that at the present time a large number of national teachers are liable to discharge without compensation or pension? Will he stay his hands until it can be ascertained what can be done for them?

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 993.

*Mr. BRYCE: I can only refer the hon. Member to a letter I sent him on the subject.

Instruction in Irish.

Mr. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any steps have been taken by the Board to make a literary knowledge of Irish essential for students who enter the training colleges, and a spoken and literary knowledge essential for students at their final examinations in the colleges.

*Mr. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they have made provision in the programme for next year for the examination of candidates in both written and spoken Irish, as an optional subject, at the entrance and final examinations, as well as at the examination for first year students.

Irish Dispensary Doctors' Salaries.

Mr. EDWARD BARRY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether several boards of guardians in Ireland have expressed themselves strongly in favour of an increase of the salaries given to dispensary and union doctors, but have been deterred by the decision of the Local Government Board that all increases must be met wholly out of the local rates without any grant in aid from the local taxation account; whether, seeing that the work performed by dispensary doctors amongst the very poor in Ireland is a national service, that they get little other remuneration, more especially in the poorer districts of Ireland, that their services to the poor involve work night and day and the upkeep of a horse or horses, that the Irish ratepayers are already heavily taxed, any steps will be taken, where the Local Government Board approves of the salaries fixed, and give a grant in aid towards paying the increase, as is already done towards the payment of their present fixed salaries.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed that some boards of guardians have expressed themselves in favour of increasing the salaries of their medical officers, and many of them have, at the instance of the Local Government Board, given such increases in the shape of graded scales of salaries. The Local Government Board have been obliged to point out to Boards of Guardians the existence and effect of Section 6 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902, which became law with the object of securing to rich and poor unions alike an equitable participation in the Local Taxation Grant. I have already informed the hon. Member that, as at present advised, the Government do not intend to take any steps for the repeal of that section.

Fitzwilliam Estate, Wicklow.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that tenants on the Fitzwilliam estate, county Wicklow, who declined to purchase their holdings at the price demanded, have been called upon to pay in January rents formerly paid in March; that owing to this action on the part of the landlord, some of the tenants have signed agreements to purchase, and against those who refused, decrees for rent were obtained at the last quarter sessions in Tinahely; and whether he will advise the Estates Commissioners to make inquiry into this practice of forcing sales upon reluctant tenants before they sanction the sales to these tenants.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no knowledge that the facts are as stated in the Question. If the Commissioners should become aware, either from the report of their inspector or otherwise, that the purchasing tenant, in any case, has been induced by undue pressure to sign the purchase agreement, they will take such action as they may deem necessary.

Mr. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork) asked if the right hon. Gentleman would secure the publication of the terms of a letter he (Mr. O'Brien) had received from the Estates Commissioners, describing the action they would take in cases when tenants had been coerced by undue pressure, or other intimidatory methods, to agree to a sale.

MR. BRYCE suggested that that was a matter for the Commissioners to decide. He had very little power to interfere with them, but he had no doubt they would desire to make public the information referred to by the hon. Member.

Mountshannon Estate, County Limerick.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he say how matters stand as between Mrs. Nevin, of Mountshannon, county Limerick, and the Estates Commissioners in regard to the sale of the Mountshannon estate; and have the applications of Simon Ryan, of Cross Pallasgrean, of James Conway, of Gurtavalla Doon, of Hanora Lonergan, of Toomaline Doon, and of Ellen Rafferty, of Garrison Pallasgrean, all evicted tenants, been entertained for farms on said estate, in lieu of the farms from which they have been evicted.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have made a proposal to purchase the estate in question, but it has not yet been accepted. Under the terms of the proposal they would not take over possession of the lands until May, 1907; and no scheme for the re-sale of the lands has been sanctioned by the Commissioners. Applications have been received from all the persons named, except Honora Lonergan, and these will be considered in due course.

Ievers Estate, Limerick.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how do matters now stand in regard to the Ievers Estate, in Mount Jevers, county Limerick; and whether there is a likelihood of a farm on it being given to William Ievers, brother of the owner, in lieu of the farm in Ballinacurra, from which he has been for some years evicted.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the Estates Commissioners have for some time past been in negotiation for the purchase of this estate, which is for sale in the Land Judges Court. The negotiations have not yet been concluded. The Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement as an evicted tenant from Mr. William Ievers, and it appears from a report which the Commissioners have obtained from their inspector that Mr. Ievers wishes to be reinstated in his former holding, which is not upon the estate for sale in the Land Judges Court.

MR. LUNDON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Mr. Ievers' application has been unsuccessful?

MR. BRYCE: I have not the facts before me.

Cashel Evicted Tenant.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he say whether the Estates Commissioners, or any person deputed by them, have entered into negotiations with Thomas McGrath, evicted tenant, of Ballyloundaish, Herbertstown, county Limerick, and Daniel Devitt, of Cashel, county Tipperary, who, as planter, holds McGrath's farm on the Fitzgerald-Tuthill property, now in course of sale to the tenants; and, if they have entered on negotiations with either one or both parties, what has been the result.

MR. BRYCE: I informed the hon. Member, in reply to his previous Question of 9th instant,† of the steps which the Estates Commissioners have taken in this case. The owner has not yet informed the Commissioners whether or not he is prepared to sell the holding formerly occupied by McGrath.

MR. LUNDON: Have negotiations been opened with the planter?

MR. BRYCE: If the hon. Member will refer to the reply I gave him on May 9th he will be in possession of all the information I have on the subject.

Moohane Evicted Tenant.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland have the Estates Commissioners, or any inspector on their behalf, taken any action with the view of effecting an arrangement between Michael Power, evicted tenant, of Moohane, Herbertstown, county Limerick, and Timothy Kirby, planter on his farm on the Croker Estate, which is being sold to the tenants; and, if so, will he say with what results.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1307.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have instructed one of their inspectors to inquire into the case referred to in the Question.

"King-Harman v. Hayes."

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will the Lord-Lieutenant, in the exercise of his power under Section 23 (8) of the Irish Land Act of 1903, request the Estates Commissioners to institute an appeal against the decision in King-Harman and Hayes, or to have a test case from among those now ruled without trial by that decision tried by the Court of Appeal, on the ground that, to the extent of the tenant's share of the property in his holding there is no sale to him, and that therefore, to that extent, neither price nor bonus should be paid to the vendor.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners do not consider that it is any part of their duty to appeal against the decision of the Judicial Commissioner in King-Harman and Hayes. They propose when a suitable opportunity occurs to refer to the Judicial Commissioner for decision the question whether if a tenant voluntarily agrees to purchase his holding at a price which is not secured by the landlord's interest, but is secured on the landlord's interest and tenant's improvements taken together, they are at liberty to refuse to advance the whole of the price agreed upon on the ground that that price is inequitable to the tenant, because, in the case supposed, he would be purchasing his own improvements.

MR. GINNELL: When will the Question be tried?

MR. BRYCE: I presume that legal opinions will be taken as soon as possible.

Irish Land Sales—Joint Owners.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have informed the Treasury that in sales of jointly-owned property, carried out under the Irish Land Act of 1903, one of the joint owners receives the price of the entire property, with a bonus of 12 per cent. calculated upon that price, and the other joint owner is made liable for the repayment of that price with interest; has the point been raised by council before the Court of Appeal that, to the extent of the tenant's property in his holding, there is no sale of that property to him, and therefore no price and no bonus due; if not, will they take steps to have that point raised and decided at the earliest possible date; and, if not, will they state the reason or obstacle against pursuing that course.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that they have not communicated to the Treasury any information to the effect mentioned; and they are not aware that any such transaction as is described would be possible under the Act of 1903, nor are they aware that any such question has been discussed in the Court of Appeal. As the Commissioners do not think that the question can arise, they are unable to promise to take steps to have it decided.

Irish Department of Agriculture—Veterinary Department.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that there are nearly twelve millions of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs in Ireland, value for about £80,000,000; that at present Ireland is freer from contagious disease amongst its livestock than any other country in the world; that the animal trade is the most beneficial industry Ireland possesses, seeing that it is distributed amongst all localities and classes; that the whole country appreciates the work of the veterinary department, which it is believed could be extended and improved; and, seeing that the Committee appointed to inquire into the workings of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction only commences its labours in Ireland on the 29th inst., will he reconsider his decision, and add an independent member of the veterinary profession to the Commission.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave to his similar Question on the 2nd instant.† It is not considered necessary or desirable to increase the numbers of the Committee.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 573.

Arklow Harbour.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will use his influence with the authorities in Dublin to have the work in connection with the improvement of Arklow Harbour proceeded with without further delay, so that this year may not be lost.

MR. BRYCE: Certain legal questions in connection with the future maintenance of the proposed works are under consideration, and must be decided before further progress can be made. There will, I trust, be no undue delay.

The Dunsandle Estate.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of holdings into which the farm of Patrick Carr, on the Dunsandle Estate of Mr. William Daly, containing 286 acres, has been divided, and the acreage of each of the new holdings.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the farm which was occupied by Mr. Carr has not been divided into holdings. This farm was purchased as untenanted land for the purpose of enlarging holdings on the estate of Mr. William Daly, but was subsequently re-sold by the Commissioners to the vendors in consideration of the sale by the vendors to the Commissioners of another large area of untenanted land comprising nearly 4,000 acres. This latter area has been divided by the Commissioners into 221 holdings.

Kerry Evicted Tenants.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state if the Estates Commissioners are now in a position to secure the reinstatement of Messrs. Daniel Loughlin and David Loughlin, two evicted tenants in county Kerry, whose holdings were inspected last February.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have informed the owner's solicitor of the amount which they would be prepared to advance for the purchase of the holdings formerly occupied by the persons named, but have not yet learnt whether the owner is prepared to sell.

Rathdown Guardians, Tea Contract.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Rathdown Board of Guardians appointed and paid out of the rates an expert to advise the board as to the quality of samples of tea to be supplied to the board under contract; that the expert so employed reported that the sample of Messrs. Weir, of Bray, was first in quality, and that of Mr. Furlong was fourth in quality, and that the guardians notwithstanding gave the contract, in spite of their expert's opinion, to Mr. Furlong, on the grounds that the proprietors of Messrs. Weir's firm were Protestants and Unionists, and that Mr. Furlong was a Nationalist and Roman Catholic; whether the Local Government Board have sanctioned this action or will interfere to prevent such a choice; and whether the expenses of the expert will be surcharged.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the facts are substantially as stated in the first part of the Question. According to the Minutes of the Guardians, the grounds upon which they gave the contract to Mr. Furlong were that his tender was one of five at the same price, that the samples in all five cases were certified by the tea expert to be of good quality, and that Mr. Furlong had given satisfaction in regard to previous contracts. The sanction of the Local Government Board has not been given, and is not required, in such matters. The expenditure of the guardians, both as to the contract and the expenses of the expert, will come before the Local Government Board's auditor for investigation in due course.

Dublin Police Circular.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the recent disclosures as to the methods of administration of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force, he will reconsider his refusal to issue in Ireland the circular recently issued in England pointing out to all policemen that their duty is to state all facts in favour of an accused person as well as facts against; and, if not, whether he will state the reasons which induce him to refuse the request.

MR. BRYCE: I have already informed the hon. Member that I have seen the instructions upon this point contained in the official regulations to both the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police. These instructions appear to me to be quite explicit and satisfactory. They convey in the plainest and most direct manner to the police their duty to state everything and suppress nothing which can be in favour of an accused person, showing no bias or malice. I am not aware that any necessity exists for calling further attention to these instructions.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that similar instructions to the London police are reissued from time to time?

MR. BRYCE: And if it be necessary no doubt a similar course will be pursued in Dublin.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for Dublin County, N., I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the inquiry into the issuing of a circular urging certain inspectors of the Dublin Metropolitan Police to make cases against licensed traders has concluded, and, if so, what is the result; and whether he will state the name of the officer or officers whose conduct was the subject of investigation.

MR. BRYCE: It has been ascertained that a confidential memorandum—not a circular—was sent more than a year ago by a superintendent in the Dublin Metropolitan Police to three inspectors only of that force, giving directions as to the discharge of a branch of their duties, but as the whole matter was confidential, it would be entirely contrary to usage to state the names of the officers concerned.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will the right hon. Gentleman give me the name of the superintendent?

MR. BRYCE: No, Sir.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I may give it to the right hon. Gentleman shortly.

MR. BRYCE: The circular got into the Press most improperly.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Perhaps you will promote the man now.

Irishmen and the Public Services.

THE MARQUESS OF HAMILTON (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to a placard posted in the streets of Strabane, county Tyrone, on the 12th instant, denouncing any Irishman who joined the Army, Navy, or police force; and if he proposes to take any, and, if so, what steps in regard to the same.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that placards of the nature indicated were posted up at Strabane on May 12th, but the police have no evidence as to who put them up. The placards were promptly removed by the police.

Irish Labourers Acts.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say when the Returns in connection with the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, ordered by Parliament on March 13th, 1906, at the request of the hon. Member for North Kerry, will be issued; and whether he is aware that, in view of the coming Labourers Bill, the issuing of these Returns is of importance.

MR. BRYCE: The Local Government Board expect to be in a position to furnish this Return in manuscript before the end of the present month. The Board have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining some of the necessary figures from the local authorities, and the figures require to be carefully checked.

MR. FLAVIN: Will the Local Government Board insist on the information being supplied by the local authorities as soon as possible? We have the statistics down to 1904.

MR. BRYCE: We are doing our best to get it.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake not to introduce the Labourers' Bill until the information is forthcoming?

MR. BRYCE: No, Sir, I hope to introduce it immediately.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): On what day?

MR. BRYCE: I hope next Monday.

North Kerry Evicted Tenants.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say when an inspector will visit North Kerry to inquire into the condition of the evicted tenants, with the object of their reinstatement.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that one of their inspectors is already in Kerry for the purpose of inquiring into the cases of evicted tenants.

Cork City Railway.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will publish and lay upon the Table immediately any correspondence that may have passed between the Treasury and the promoters of certain railway schemes in the south of Ireland in the years 1905–6, having the object of uniting existing railway systems north and south of Cork City, especially with regard to any proposals or promises made to such promoters on behalf of the Treasury of financial support of those schemes out of a fund at the disposal of the Treasury, arising out of and in consideration for local taxation of certain districts in the county Waterford in respect to railways constructed in the county Waterford.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by publishing any such correspondence, as I have already stated the nature of the offer which the Government have made.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): Is it not a fact that application by the railway company to devote the whole of this £93,000 towards connecting the railways of Cork was promptly refused in 1901?

MR. MCKENNA: Yes, Sir. The ground of refusal was that the money was allocated under another Act and that the allocation of this Act did not expire until 1905.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that if the Cork Railway Bill sanctioned by a Committee is to be hung up the much-needed connection of railways in the City of Cork will be indefinitely postponed?

MR. MCKENNA: I am informed that the Committee has passed the Bill.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): The correspondence between the Treasury and the Railway Company, was issued as a Parliamentary Paper in 1901–2. Why should the hon. Gentleman draw a distinction between this correspondence and that which is published?

MR. T. M. HEALY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the action of the Government in this matter has the strong support of many Irish Members?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish Land Act, Treasury Advances.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether there is any class of cases other than those under the Irish Land Act of 1903, in which the Treasury advances a so-called price, and a bonus calculated upon that price for jointly-owned property to one of the joint owners, and holds the other joint owner responsible for the repayment of the entire price with interest, although to the extent of his property there is no sale to him; and will the Treasury have the validity of the decision tested, according to which numerous transactions of this kind are now in progress in Ireland.

MR. MCKENNA: Generally speaking, Irish property cannot technically be said to be jointly owned by landlord and tenant, but assuming the hon. Member means by the expression, tenant right combined with the landlord's ownership, I am not aware of any cases of the kind referred to. In any case the Treasury have no power to interfere.

Roscommon Local Government Election Petition.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the demand made by the Treasury on the County Council of Roscommon for the payment of a sum of £500, the expenses alleged to be incurred in connection with the trial of a local government election petition; whether he will state how this sum is made up, giving the items, and the principal or scale on which the payments were calculated; on what area the charge is made payable, and who fixed the area, and upon whose certificate the charge is sanctioned; and whether he is aware that the county council has made a protest against the payment of this demand, in view of the extraordinary length of the inquiry; and whether he proposes to take any notice of this protest.

MR. MCKENNA: The Treasury has paid the sum of £544 13s. 4d. to the officers engaged on the trial of a petition arising out of an election to the Roscommon County Council. The amount is made up of the following payments, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
To the Commissioner who tried the petition -	252	0	0
To the Registrar - -	85	14	10
" " Crier - - -	26	16	7
" " Shorthand writer -	117	1	11
" " Representative of the Attorney-General -	63	0	0
Total - -	£544	13	4

The payments were calculated according to the scale prescribed by the Judges, with the approval of the Treasury, under Section 101 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882. The money is advanced by the Treasury upon the certificate of the Commissioner who tried the petition as to the length of time occupied, and is repayable by the county council, out of the county fund or rate, under the abovementioned Section 101, as applied by Section 75 of the Local Government Act, 1888, and Section 104 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. I am not aware that the county council has made any protest, but I may say that the Government has no option whatever in the matter, nor any power of regulating the length of the inquiry.

MR. HAYDEN said he hoped that in future expense would be saved by having these election petitions tried by Judges in receipt of salaries.

Monaghan Post Office.

MR. O'HARA (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the site for the new post office for Monaghan has been under consideration for over four years; will he say when it may be expected to be completed; and whether, seeing that the present office has been condemned as insanitary, and in view of the fact that the staff at the office are compelled to work under disadvantageous circumstances owing to the noxious smells and sewer gas from the basement, steps will be taken to complete the purchase of the site under consideration, for which the money was voted in 1903, or to accept the site offered to the post office in Market Street.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I regret that the negotiations for the purchase of a site for a new post office at Monaghan have been unavoidably protracted, mainly on account of legal difficulties; but I hope that a satisfactory arrangement will be come to at an early date.

Portadown Postman's Character Cleared.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the result of his inquiries into the allegation of the hon. Member for Mid-Armagh, that a postman attached to the Portadown office was found lying in a state of intoxication when in charge of a mail-bag?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: After careful inquiry I find that the postman referred to was not under the influence of drink, but was incapacitated from another cause. The postman in question has a clear record and bears an excellent character; and the case will not be recorded against him.

MR. LONSDALE: Was inquiry made of the railway officials?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Full inquiry was made into the facts.

MR. MACVEAGH: I think the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh owes some expression of regret to the man for bringing a charge proved to be absolutely false. He would be afraid to make a like statement outside the House.

The Local Government Board and the Unemployed.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to present a Bill to the House providing for the creation of a separate Department to deal with the problem of the unemployed; if so, whether such separate Department will be under the control of a new Minister, to be known as the Minister of Labour?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir. His Majesty's Government have no intention of creating a separate Department to deal with the problem of the unemployed.

MR. O'GRADY: Is not the Premier of opinion that the Local Government Board is already overcrowded with work, and cannot be expected to deal with the question of the unemployed?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot be expected to share that opinion.

Irish Self-Government.

MR. O'MARA: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in considering plans for associating the people of Ireland with the Government of their country, he will consider whether the devolution of the control of the Royal Irish Constabulary to the county councils, as in Great Britain, is not advisable.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not at present in a position to make any statement regarding the steps which it may be proposed to take for better associating the people of Ireland with the Government of their country.

Derby Day.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that Wednesday, the 30th instant, is the date of an important national festival at which many Members of the House are desirous of assisting, he will consider the possibility of moving the adjournment for the Whitsuntide Recess on Tuesday, the 29th.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not know of any national festival which is celebrated on May 30th, and therefore I am not open to consider the suggestion put forward.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: May I respectfully remind the Prime Minister that May 30th is the anniversary of the conclusion of peace with the Boers and of the birth of Mr. Alfred Austin, the Poet Laureate?

Religious Census of Prisoners.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the small proportion of inmates in His Majesty's prisons returned as of no religious opinion; and whether, in view of this revelation, he will favourably consider Amendments to the Education Bill making all State education of a secular character.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not consider that the statements made by inmates of prisons as to their religious opinion furnish any test of the feeling of the country.

Women and Local Government.

DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can now see his way to indicate on behalf of the Government that facilities will be given for the passing of the Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill through the House this session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Government have every sympathy with the objects of the Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill, but it is impossible, I fear, at this moment to make any promise as to placing Government time at the disposal of its promoters.

Alien Pilots.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) asked the President of the Board of

Trade a Question of which he had given private notice—namely, whether he could embody in the Merchant Shipping Amendment Bill, now in Committee, a clause dealing with the restriction of the employment of alien pilots in British waters.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): There are a good many legal difficulties in the way of dealing with the matter. The Government have, after careful consideration, decided that they can deal with future applications, and an Amendment of the Merchant Shipping Bill will be placed on the Paper to that effect.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Mr. Munro Ferguson; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Morse.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Workmen's Compensation Bill:—Mr. Lloyd Morgan; and had appointed in substitution:—Mr. Alexander Black.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

SOLICITORS BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 228.]

EXTRADITION BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 229.]

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 230.]

NEW BILL.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS BILL.

"To appoint additional Commissioners for executing the Acts granting a Land Tax and other Rates and Taxes, and to remove the qualification by estate required in the case of all such Commissioners, whether appointed under this or any previous Act," presented by Mr. McKenna; supported by Mr. Herbert Lewis; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 231.]

RIGHTS OF WAY BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to public Rights of Way," presented by Mr. Paulton; supported by Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Abel Thomas, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 12th, and to be printed. [Bill 232.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, at the end, to add the words 'and unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours, nor at the public expense.'"—(*Mr. Maddison.*)

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'during school hours, nor.'"—(*Mr Chamberlain.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester) said that when progress was reported the previous night a very interesting and important Amendment was before the Committee. It would be for the convenience of the Committee if the statement were now made by the right hon. Gentleman who proposed the Amendment to the Amendment, whether, in the event of his proposition being taken into the lobbies, he was going to carry his Party along with him. A great deal of the importance which ought to attach to the second Amendment would depend, for instance, upon the fact whether the right hon. Gentleman the junior Member for the City was going to follow the right hon. Member for West Birmingham on the present occasion [Cries of "Order."], and whether the Amendment was supported by the right hon. Gentleman the representative for the Oxford University, who had been taking such an important part in the discussions upon the Bill. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would indicate to the Committee how the matter stood in that respect; whether he had moved it with the due concurrence of those with whom he acted, and whether he really held out that as an olive branch on behalf of the official Opposition to those who were trying to establish peace upon a secular basis. Were they or were they not to take it that the Amendment was a genuine attempt to get the Committee to declare that a Bill, drafted upon a secular basis with some important provisions modifying that basis, was acceptable to the Unionist Party in this House; that it was to be amended only in detail, and would be taken from this House and held up to the country and to the responsible leaders of the Church as a Bill which ought to be accepted as a satisfactory solution of the religious question? The Committee ought to know how it stood in that respect, and he would venture to say that although they had an objection—indeed, it might be a serious objection—to the Amendment which, perhaps, for convenience sake, he might refer to as the Amendment itself, yet if they felt that that Amendment came with the weight and authority he had got in his mind, many of them would be willing seriously to consider whether they ought not to waive those objections in order to give a guarantee to the religious organisations of the country who were opposing the Bill that they were anxious to meet them. In consideration of the important issue involved, the Committee ought, at the earliest possible opportunity, to receive an official statement from the Opposition as to what their attitude was with regard to the Amendment. What he had to say upon the Amendment would no doubt be modified if the statement to be made by the Opposition were satisfactory. At the present time, however, he did not see that the Amendment carried them very far. It raised some very serious difficulties. Let them see how it would apply to the Bill before them. Under the Bill there were three kinds of schools established, or at all events recognised. The first was the ordinary public school as they now knew it—the school where religious instruction was given in accordance with the Cowper-Temple clause—Cowper-Temple religion, as it had been called. The second which Clause 3 recognised was what was known as the "ordinary facilities" school. Three days in the week that school would be conducted as an ordinary public school, two days as an ordinary voluntary school. Then there was the third kind of school created by Clause 4—the "special facilities" school—where Cowper-Temple religion disappeared and where ordinary denominational instruction was given from Monday until Friday inclusive. The question they had to decide was what the effect upon those three classes of schools would be, supposing the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment was carried. It would not affect the schools created under Clause 4, because, as it was, the religious instruction given in them was not to be paid from the rates. Neither would it affect the schools created under Clause 3 on the days in the week when they were conducted as voluntary schools, because the education must be given from voluntary sources. But it would affect those schools on three days in the week when they were subject to the Cowper-Temple clause, and also the "provided" schools every day in the week. The effect of the Amendment would be to knock out religious instruction altogether from the Cowper-Temple schools, unless it were promoted by voluntary religious organisations, by church or chapel, or by organisations neither church nor chapel, organisations such as the right hon. Gentleman and his Birmingham friends were connected with in the early days of the board school experiment, organisations which he might call *ad hoc* organisations, which were created for the special purpose of providing facilities for religious education to children attending board schools. That solution was not likely to be accepted by anyone. In fact, it meant a general application of the right of entry. If he might say so with the due humility of a new Member, he thought that, after the attack the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made upon that idea, they need not waste any time at present in discussing it. Undoubtedly the proposal before them did meet very largely the demand assumed to be made by the people of the country, and he thought perhaps the Committee would agree with him when he said that that view had been voiced with thoroughness and absoluteness by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education on the previous evening. The only remark he would make on the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary was that while he agreed with it in large measure he could not see how it could be fitted in within the four corners of this Bill. He found such expressions in it as—

> "The teachers in the national schools were becoming more skilled every day";

and the hon. Gentleman put special emphasis on "skilled"—though it did not appear in the printed letter of the speech—

> "And they knew the way to the child's mind better than anyone else."

Then why limit the teachers in imparting religious knowledge. Skilled teachers! Skilled in what? How was the skill of a teacher in this respect to be tested? That was dangerous doctrine for a member of the Ministry to preach. He ventured to say that before these discussions were over and this Bill left the Committee stage, the hon. Member would have that phrase quoted very often, not by hon. Members behind him, but by hon. Members above the gangway on the Opposition side. Again the hon. Gentleman said—

> "No child was properly equipped for the battle of life who did not get somewhere simple religious instruction."

But the hon. Gentleman went on to say that—

> "Simple Bible teaching would not do."

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.) said that while not denying that he had used the words "simple Bible teaching," what he intended to say was "simple Bible reading."

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD said his hon. friend did not get himself out of the difficulty by that remark. He did not think that simple Bible reading would do. Then there was a difference between simple Bible reading and simple religious instruction? If that difference existed the case put up by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth and the noble Lord the Member for Marylebone was absolutely unassailable. The idea of the Government was to impart simple religious instruction by Bible reading or Bible teaching. They were met by the argument that that was not religion. They could only rebut that argument by claiming that it was the foundation of religion and all that was necessary to be given in a State school. And how the hon. Gentleman could say that in a State school they could give simple religious instruction which was more then mere Bible reading, and then defend the inclusive religious character of the Bill surpassed his comprehension. The speech with which he had said he was very much in agreement, and which raised the whole question they were now discussing, seemed to him to have been delivered in a vacuum. If they had been beginning with their religious difficulties to-day then his vote would have been probably put at the disposal of the hon. Gentleman. If they had had no experience, no history, no past, then he thought that those considerations presented by the hon. Gentleman would have been simply overwhelming in their influence on the Committee. But this question had a past, and it was no good talking about simple Bible reading or simple religious instruction, as though that could be made the basis of peace, because it became absolutely impossible to keep denominationalism out of the schools under such circumstances. They either taught the Bible with or without comment — if without comment they treated the Bible as a secular textbook. Surely at the beginning of the 20th century nobody would rise in the Committee and tell them that the mere reading of the Old or New Testament begun at a certain hour and continued for a certain number of minutes was a religious exercise. He denied that it was. The mere reading of the Bible without comment was a secular exercise and there was no religious value attached to it unless one had some superstitious regard for the Book. But he ventured to say that that regard came at a very much later period in their lives than the school period. The moment they taught it with comment they introduced creeds and catechisms and denominational points of view, and it was absolutely unfair to say that their standard of undenominationalism must be thrust down the throats of those who had conscientious objections to it. Any one who had read the history of educational controversies during the last 100 years would acknowledge that what he was saying was absolutely true. Then it was said that Cowper-Temple teaching had been a success. What did they mean by its being a success? Within the limits of their meaning could it have been a failure? He supposed success meant that there had been no great body of opinion among parents opposed to it. But how could the parents show their opposition?

AN HON. MEMBER ON THE MINISTERIAL BENCHES: By a vote at the school board election.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD said that that was no fair test at all. The only practicable way open to parents to object was to withdraw their children from religious instruction. [MINISTERIAL Cries of "No; the school board election."] As the right hon. the Secretary for India had said, and said truly, an adult could afford to be a Nonconformist because his conscience made up for what he had to sacrifice for it; but a child could not possibly be a Nonconformist, because the cruelty of asking a child to stand out among its fellows was so great that no wise parent would eve ask it of his child. At the present moment he had a child at a Council school. He objected to Cowper-Templeism because it did not satisfy his ideas of what religious education should be. But was he going to withdraw his child from the Cowper-Temple teaching and expose him to be the butt of his fellows in the school? Yet the hon. Member for North Camberwell might class him amongst the great crowd of people who were perfectly satisfied with Cowper-Temple teaching! A great body of people outside had objected to the Act of 1902, but that Act was not merely a logical result of Cowper-Templeism, but a biological result of Cowper-Templeism. It flowed from it naturally, and if they were denied the opportunity of making this a secular Bill they were obliged to take the consequences and settle the *status* of religious education by making Clause 4 compulsory, and making it much wider in its scope. He was not however going to labour the point about religious instruction, though he was bound to say that it was the point that affected him most of all. It was all very well for hon. Members to talk about Secularists and secularism, and he was rather sorry that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham used that expression the day before, because it was exceedingly misleading to talk about the endowment of secularism as the result of their proceedings, and in all good part he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that he did not use that expression when he was associated with the Birmingham Association, which practically took up the same position in 1870 and onwards, as he and his friends were taking up at the present time. He begged the Committee, however, not to miss what was after all the kernel of their position. They objected to simple Bible teaching, as it was called, not because they were secularists, but because they were in favour of genuine religious instruction throughout the country. When he referred to the matter before, there was a good deal of objection taken, because he suggested that the teaching of the people under the Cowper-Temple system had not been quite the success from the religious point of view that had been claimed. He held in his hand a statement made by a London County Council inspector on this very point. The inspector was a man, whose knowledge of the schools was very extensive and a man whose study of moral and religious teaching had been equally extensive. Mr. Hayward said—

> "No man who really reverences the Bible can tolerate, if he once opens his eyes, the state of degradation it occupies in most schools. Even Shakespeare used for the purposes of parsing and analysis is not degraded so low as

the Bible read in one school 'without note or comment,' in another enforced by cane and detention, in *all* schools devoid of plates and illustrations, badly printed and without external signs of distinction between prose and poetry."

He would like to draw the attention of hon. Members for Scottish constituencies who also objected to certain extracts he read from a Scottish inspector's report, to the fact that Mr. Hayward went on to quote Dr. Kerr, and those Members who had any experience of Scottish education knew the supreme importance of Dr. Kerr's opinion. Mr. Hayward said—

> "Is it any wonder that Dr. Kerr has expressed the doubt whether the use of the Bible as a reading book in Scottish schools has conduced to reverence for its pages?"

Therefore if he erred, he erred in the company of learned and expert gentlemen who knew what they were writing about. He would also remind the Committee of what the late Bishop of London, writing to Bishop Mitchinson on May 20th, 1895, said in regard to diocesan inspection. Bishop Creighton said—

> "My own opinion is that it aims at the wrong end. It formalises and secularises what ought to be free and religious . . . . Men say Scripture knowledge is best taught by the master, but I want them to teach religion."

That was the criticism of the late Bishop of London, not upon board schools but upon voluntary schools, for which the Church, of which he was such a distinguished ornament, was herself responsible. Finally when the right hon. Gentleman dealt with Dr. Dale's opinion he would remind him of the title of one of Dr. Dale's most powerful pamphlets, which, with another sister pamphlet he wrote, was issued under the auspices of the Birmingham Liberal Two Thousand of that day. He thought the title of that pamphlet indicated the position taken up in Birmingham. It was "Religious Teaching by Board Schools perilous to the Life and Faith of the Nation." He was not foolish enough to imagine for a single moment that the secular solution would be unanimously accepted. He was not even concerned at the present moment to suggest how the superstructure should be built upon the secular basis. That was not their business. He should like very much, if he could, to put that responsibility upon the shoulders of his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education; but what they were concerned about now by means of this Amendment was simply urgently to ask the Committee not to declare for a particular superstructure, but to declare what was the best foundation upon which it could be erected. That was what the Committee was asked to do in voting for or against this Amendment, whether it was to be amended as the right hon. Gentleman proposed or not. All that the Committee was asked to do was simply to lay down the fundamental principle of State education. Was or was not the State going to make itself responsible for religious instruction? Those who occupied the middle line of Nonconformist advance said "No." Those who did not occupy that line must say "Yes," and there was no half-way house. This Bill was simply built upon an incline. It could not stand, because it had no stable foundation. It proposed to meet the Liberationist without accepting his principles; it proposed to meet both the English Catholic and the Roman Catholic without accepting their principles; it endeavoured to build a house to accommodate all styles of religious architecture and all degrees of religious and conscientious objection. It could not be done. Not even this Government could do such a thing. But he believed that a satisfactory Bill based upon a secular foundation could be drafted. Provided the basis of the Bill were secular, modifications of Clauses like 2, 3, and 4 could be grafted upon it. If they applied the facilities idea to the secular basis their task was not so difficult. He merely threw out as a suggestion that if that were done the details were not so exceedingly difficult as might be imagined at the first blush. In regard to supporters, first of all, there was the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister, who, in 1870 or thereabouts, voted for this Amendment couched in words which expressed the position of the time. But he was very glad that they had not to go so far back as that period, because only three or four years ago, at the Alexandra Palace, the right hon. Gentleman declared that he was still in favour of keeping religious instruction out of the schools altogether, and he went further and said that not only was that his idea, but that it was the position of nine-tenths of the Party which they were all glad to see him leading. Taking the Premier's own estimate, therefore, nine-tenths of hon. Members opposite were coming into the lobby with them upon this Amendment. Might he for the purposes of this debate and for the purposes of this division join with right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, who had always been a consistent advocate of the secular basis? They might have cause to disagree with the fabric which the right hon. Gentleman erected upon it, but, nevertheless, from the earliest school board days up to now the right hon. Gentleman's position had always been consistent upon that point. There were therefore two great forces united in the lobby with them. Their Nonconformist friends of the Liberation Society could not refuse to support the Amendment if they were at all consistent. It remained to be seen whether they were consistent, but if the life of that venerable and venerated organisation had not gone out of it, its friends must be sent into the lobby with the supporters of the Amendment. The *British Weekly* declared week after week that it would prefer a secular solution to any other because it knew there could be obtainable no solution short of this that would be satisfactory to those who were not in favour of denominational educationin our public schools. There was one great difficulty. He did not propose to deal with it, but simply proposed to state it to the House. If he felt that there was any soundness in the objection that the secular solution would leave tens of thousands of children to grow up without the knowledge of anything higher than the gutter, his position would be difficult. The objection would be a paramount consideration in determining his action. He did not think the objection was sound. From inside knowledge of schools and acquaintance with some of the worst districts of the metropolis he was convinced that so long as they went about in a happy-go-lucky sort of way, regarding either voluntary or board school religion as an adequate or satisfactory substitute for parental religion, they would simply be living in a fool's paradise. They were putting no pressure upon these parents to do their duty, and were allowing themselves to be deceived into thinking that by their rates and taxes they could take the place of the parent who acted conscientiously in a religious state of mind. The argument, however, was insignificant in its force if that assumption of his was inaccurate, and if behind their minds hon. Members had not an idea that the parent could be supplanted by the State in his religious aspects. Hon. Members might interrupt and deny. He was afraid their ideas were very confused. The argument to which he was alluding was powerful only on the assumption that they could to a satisfactory degree by their rates and taxes take the place of the parent in religious teaching. He did not believe they could. It was said, too, that the churches would not do their duty. He was glad that accusation would not come from him. He could not understand how anybody who had any faith or belief in the power of our churches, free and established, could rise in their place and make such an accusation. For his part he would be slow to believe that the churches were going to allow the teeming millions of the towns and cities to pass their lives in darkness. The truth was that the more they stood by the Cowper-Temple system, the more they attempted to draft education Bills upon a supposed compromise between expressions of conscience that were absolutely opposed and could not possibly be made the subject of compromise, the more they invited the neglectful parent to go on with his neglect, and the more they assisted the churches, which failed in their duty, to remain faithless to their trust.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that technically the question before the Committee was the Amendment to the Amendment, and strictly speaking the discussion ought to be confined to the Amendment to the Amendment. But obviously it would spoil the discussion to confine it strictly to that point, and he had therefore allowed the hon. Member to go on with a speech which dealt considerably more with the Amendment than with the proposed Amendment. He proposed to continue to allow it to proceed on the original Amendment, as well as on the Amendment to the Amendment, if the Committee agreed; but if he did that, he did not think there should be two discussions on the two separate points.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that everybody who had heard the last three hours of the discussion yesterday, and who had heard the speech of the hon. Member for Leicester to-day must have recognised that the Committee had now come to one of those points in the discussion of the Bill which rendered necessary the consideration of the underlying principles which ought to regulate legislation with respect to elementary religious instruction. He did not know that on a strict interpretation of the Amendment or the Amendment to the Amendment, these principles could be raised. But they had been raised; and if he might say so without impertinence, he thought the Committee would do well to follow the ruling and advice of the Chairman as to the course the discussion should take. With respect to the Amendment to the Amendment he would say that he thought it an improvement on the original Amendment, and he should certainly support his right hon. friend in the lobby. But the main stress of the debate fell upon the original Amendment, and it was to that he would address, in the main, such observations as he had to make to the Committee. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had told them truly that they could not consider the question of religious education in the abstract, as if the question had no historical basis, as if they were beginning with a new state of things, without the prejudices or prepossessions that had come to them from the past. The question had a past, and, whether they liked it or not, it was upon that past that they had to build. The hon. Gentleman had done no more than justice to the Education Act of 1902 when he pointed out that in the great majority of its proposals it was an Act for the re-organisation of secular education. The late Government dealt with religious instruction on the basis which they found in existence. In other words, they accepted the system of the voluntary schools on the one side and the Cowper-Temple system on the other, attempting to abolish neither the one nor the other. What the present Government had failed to see was that, at the worst, the edifice erected by their predecessors had the faults necessarily inherent in an edifice erected on an old historic foundation, as well as its merits. They proposed to abolish, almost entirely, the voluntary system, and to leave wholly untouched the Cowper-Temple system; and it was because they had failed to see that this way of treating this historic problem could not but be considered, rightly or wrongly, as grossly unjust by a large portion of the population that he could find no satisfactory solution on the lines which they had developed. If that was true, it inevitably followed that there should be attempts to build up a new system, not by pulling down half the old system and leaving the other half untouched, but to build it upon some new, systematic, and logical basis. He had listened with intense interest to the speech made by the hon. Member for North West Ham, last night, and the speech just delivered by the hon. Member for Leicester. Both hon. Gentlemen conceived themselves to have found that clear, logical, and consistent plan upon which to build the future education of the country, a system which should not be open to the attack—as he believed, the irresistible attack—which would be directed against the system of this Bill as it stood, but which contained within itself a solution that would be generally acceptable. But he could not help thinking that both these hon. Gentlemen had failed to understand the full difficulties of the position. Both of them had spoken from the religious education point of view. As he understood them, they desired that the children should be brought up—either by the schools or by the parents, but preferably by the parents—in religious beliefs which were not limited by the arbitrary and wholly illogical limitations of the Cowper-Temple clause, but should enjoy that unhampered freedom which religious teaching, if it was to be of the smallest value, must have. They called themselves secularists.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.): No.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: What I want is education on a secular foundation, not on a secularist foundation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the phraseology of the hon. Gentleman did make the matter clearer. They proposed to build on a secular foundation. On that foundation they expected to secure an adequate system of secular education, and to have in addition, by the agencies of the churches and the co-operation of the parents, the religious instruction which they desired for the children. He could not help thinking that they both undervalued the objections to such a system which were so powerfully stated last night by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Education Board. Neither of the hon. Gentlemen, though they followed the Parliamentary Secretary, attempted to meet his arguments. The Parliamentary Secretary had pointed out that as a matter of fact a large number of the parents were not qualified by knowledge or by opportunity to give adequate religious instruction from the point of view of any denomination. The hon. Gentleman had pointed out further that, however urgent might be the zeal of the churches, it was difficult or impossible for them to rival the trained teacher in giving religious instruction, and he might have added that if that were to be done in the school at all, it must be done in school hours. Did the hon. Members for North West Ham and Leicester seriously think that this religious instruction could be given out of school hours elsewhere than in school by the parents? The hon. Member for Leicester had paid a deserved tribute to the churches. Had the churches ever fully succeeded in doing this even with their system of Sunday schools? The Parliamentary Secretary had given a perfectly clear negative to that suggestion, and he agreed with the Parliamentary Secretary. He did not believe it ever had been done adequately in Sunday schools, and he did not believe it was being done adequately at this moment either here, or in America, or in the Colonies. And if they were going to keep the children on weekdays in the secular schools, and to reserve Sunday, and Sunday alone, and the Sunday schools, and the Sunday schools alone, as machinery for religious education, he was as certain as he was of any practical proposition that, however ardent might be the zeal of the Churches in favour of the religious education of the young, they would fail in their object. The education would not be given; it would fall into disrepute because it was outside that to which the State gave the *imprimatur* and the authority of its encouragement. And they would discover that, however unsatisfactory might be the religious education of the children at the present time—and he was not here to say it was satisfactory either in Board or voluntary schools—a generation would not have passed over their heads before they found that the religious teaching of the children of this country was a thing of the past, a thing which might have an historic interest and influence, but had no present effect and would carry with it no future benefit. If he were right in saying that, the secular basis which the hon. Member for North West Ham and the hon. Member for Leicester recommended would inevitably degenerate into that which they least of all desired, a secularist result, and they would be the unwilling and unconscious instruments of some of the most dangerous forces, as he thought, affecting the thoughts of the rising generation, and would, as a matter of fact, without really desiring that result, destroy the religious teaching in the schools and homes of this country. If that were so, he could not possibly vote for an Amendment which he believed would be fatal to the objects which both the hon. Members to whom he was referring were in favour of. They and he, and he believed everybody, were in favour of religious education. He did not believe that a secular basis, as they described secular basis, would produce the results which they expected. They knew perfectly well that the scheme they had proposed was entirely different from that proposed by his right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham. His right hon. friend might, if he thought fit, describe his scheme as based on a secular foundation, but his scheme was wholly different. He desired that there should be, within the compulsory school hours, an opportunity for the

Churches and for the teachers to teach religion in the schools. Whatever might be said of that, it was not a system which, as far as he could see, was a secular system, and would not lead to secularism. It was, on the contrary, a scheme involving religious, and denominational religious, education as its very essence. It abolished the Cowper-Temple clause, of course, as he thought the Cowper-Temple clause ought to be and must be abolished, if they were ever to have a coherent and clear system of education in this country. His right hon. friend proposed to abolish the Cowper-Temple clause and to erect upon the vacant space thereby created a scheme for religious instruction which might well satisfy, and did satisfy, a very large number of the most earnest thinkers on all sides of politics and among all religious denominations. He erected a religious structure upon the ground thus cleared by the abolition of the Cowper-Temple clause. That was not true of the authors of the present Amendment. They did away with the Cowper-Temple clause and put nothing religious in its place, and that was their deliberate and avowed intention. They did not conceal it, and, indeed, it was on the very face of the Amendment. The Cowper-Temple clause had no stronger opponent than he, if they were to consider it as the sole mechanism and method by which religious instruction was to be given to the children. To say that Cowper-Temple religion, as it was called, and Cowper-Temple religion alone, should be taught in our public elementary schools seemed to him not only grossly absurd, but grossly unfair. But he confessed that he was not prepared to do away even with that gross unfairness and gross inequality if, in doing that, they destroyed all religious teaching in the schools. That was a deeper thing than any of their other quarrels. He quite agreed that under the Cowper-Temple clause they had a variety of teaching which was almost infinite in its character—teaching which varied from the mere reading of the Bible as a collection of literary works produced at different stages of human development to teaching as dogmatic as the Council of Trent, which was not regarded by the courts of law as dogmatic, because more than one sect happened to agree with it. But at all events they did have in some cases, and they could have in all cases under the Cowper-Temple clause, most substantial, valuable religious education. If they were going to clear that away, let them know what they were going to put in its place. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down and the hon. Member for North West Ham cleared it away and left the Churches to manage their own affairs. He could not accept that statement. If the Government would assure them, or if there were any clear prospect that by clearing away the Cowper-Temple clause they were to have any scheme—his right hon. friend's scheme, or, at all events, some scheme—which gave them the assurance that there would continue to be valuable religious education in every one of the schools, then by all means let them clear away the Cowper-Temple clause with all its absurdities, all its illogicalities, all its frictions, all those shams for which it was responsible. But until he had some security that this Amendment was only to be the prelude to another scheme, and not in itself a complete scheme, he could not support it, because he would be open to the charge that he was himself desirous of seeing education upon a secular basis. That was not his view. He did not think it ought to be on a secular basis, and were he, therefore, to vote for the Amendment, he would give an entirely false impression of the views which he held. He held that the best plan of all was to find some scheme by which free play should be given to denominational teaching, dogmatic teaching, teaching which the parents desired, to all the varieties of teaching which they must have in a country where religious belief was itself so varied. That was the scheme he wanted. It was not given by the Bill, but even less was it given by the Amendment. The Bill in Clause 4 left some opening for religious denominational teaching. Even in Clause 3, though in a form which, he thought the Committee would insist on amending, there was some recognition of a free denominational element. But this Amendment, according to the intention of its movers, left no such possibility and no such opening; and if their carrying it meant that they accepted the views of those who proposed it, it meant that they had for ever banished religion from the schools. He could not personally lend any colour to the view that he shared those opinions. He did not share them. There was an illimitable abyss between he secular scheme of the two hon. Gentlemen to whom he had been referring and the scheme of his right hon. friend. There was an impassable abyss between that scheme and the scheme of any one who desired to see the voluntary school system maintained, and between that system and those who desired to see full religious teaching under the Cowper-Temple clause preserved in the schools. Of all the many plans that had been put before the Committee for dealing with the religious difficulty, the one which cut schools wholly adrift from religion was the one most repellant to his mind. Much as he objected, deeply as he objected to the Bill of the Government, unjust, provocative, unhistorical, and inadequate as he thought it was, he would rather have it than the scheme which for ever made the schools of the country schools for secular instruction and secular instruction alone. And although he fully admitted that on the basis proposed by these hon. Gentlemen they might erect other schemes of religious education which they did not agree with, it seemed to him that, if he were to support their Amendment in the hope of doing something afterwards which they did not agree with, he would only be misleading the Committee as to the true direction in which, upon this religious question, his opinions moved. For those reasons, though he should support the Amendment to the Amendment, the original Amendment itself seemed to be so inimical to the interests of religious education in elementary schools that, deeply as he sympathised with nine-tenths of what had fallen from the two eloquent speakers, he could not himself follow them into the lobby.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said that, although he had no right to speak on behalf of any great body of his fellow countrymen, he claimed to have some knowledge with regard to the condition of religious education of the country and of the opinions of the great body of Nonconformists. Whatever scheme was put before the Committee would be objected to by somebody and a variety of difficulties would be brought forward which were supposed to be insuperable. He thought the Government had endeavoured in the best possible way to meet those difficulties. Of course some of the proposals in the Bill did not satisfy him, but, if the measure gave him complete satisfaction, probably it would prove unjust to some other sections of the community. An attempt had been made in the Bill to meet some of the difficulties of the minorities, and there was every disposition on the part of those whom he represented to regard the difficulties of the situation with the utmost fairness and a desire that they should be met. He thought the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education went a little beyond his brief in the speech he had made the previous day. Perhaps there was a measure of excuse for the ardour with which he took up the cause of religious education, but in his remarks he thought the hon. Member did scant justice to the great Sunday school institutions of the country, and he did not think they had had fair treatment or justice at the hands of many other speakers, probably from want of absolute knowledge of the facts. It would help to reassure the Committee if he stated one or two facts in connection with Sunday school institutions. He had the honour of being the president of one of the great Sunday school organisations connected with the Free Churches, and there were no less than 3,500,000 scholars in attendance in those Churches. He was free to admit that they were not staffed with the same efficient teachers as the day schools, but a great many of these teachers were also on the day schools staffs of both the council and the non-provided schools. In those Free Church Sunday schools they had some 400,000 teachers, many of whom belonged to the educated classes, and they gave the best religious instruction they could. Outside the Free Churches there were probably some 3,000,000 more children in attendance at Sunday schools. He thought that was something of an answer to the hon. Member for Leicester, who dismissed so lightly the idea that parents were in favour of simple Bible teaching. These scholars were gathered in the Sunday schools by their own desire or by the desire of their parents, and they received there this religious education for whatever it was worth. He thought that in a debate where religious education took the lead, at least Sunday schools should have a little more prominent recognition than they had received up to the present. He had been connected with Sunday schools for fifty years and knew a great many parents, and he was not prepared to deny the fact that in a great many instances parents were not capable, and had not the disposition to give religious education; yet they desired that their children should have it, and they showed that desire by sending their children to our Sunday schools. One thing that had surprised him was that Members of this Committee who seemed to be extremely anxious for the religious education of the children of the working classes belonged to a class which did not care for this dogmatic teaching. He could give many extracts on this point from good authorities, but he would quote only two. The Bishop of London had testified that the children of the wealthier classes who came forward for confirmation had no religious education at all, while the other classes were well grounded.

Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): But that relates to the Sunday school.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE said the late Colonial Secretary had said in regard to Bible reading without the explanations associated with creeds that—

> "It would be absurd to say it widely differs from the instruction we receive at Eton and probably at Harrow and Rugby."

He could give other quotations to show that dogmatic teaching was not in great favour with those classes who were constantly insisting upon it for the children. The secular position had been ably dealt with, and if any advocacy could command assent to the principle in this Committee it would be the advocacy of the hon. Member for North West Ham and the hon. Member for Leicester. But after all the hon. Member for Leicester had really delivered a doctrinaire speech without any practical results following, and there was nothing upon which to build up what he himself regarded as the essential part of the education of the young of this country. Whilst he had the greatest sympathy with very much which the hon. Member had advanced and would deprecate anything that would force dogmatic teaching upon the children in the schools, he did not think the hon. Member had moved the question one inch forward, good and powerful as his advocacy was from many points of view. The Nonconformist Party had always more or less sympathised with the secular movement, because it seemed to meet the one thing they were driven to in opposition to the dogmatic teaching of a certain dominant sect. The position of Nonconformists prior to 1870 was perhaps not altogether understood by those who had the advantage of being young and who had not gone through the contest of that period. Their position was that they could not justly separate religion from education and that it must be a part of it. Therefore, as the State had no right to interfere with the religious education of its people, therefore it could not undertake education as such. That was the primary position of the Nonconformists, and circumstances drove them to that position. The great ignorance in which the population of the country was then growing up and which increased year by year drove them from that position, and therefore the compromise of 1870 was made. Some extraordinary charges had been made against Cowper-Temple teaching by the late Prime Minister. Surely the right hon. Gentleman did not need reminding that Cowper-Temple teaching had the *imprimatur* of the leading members of the Anglican Church, the Nonconformist Church ,and those belonging to no Church at all. Therefore it could not deserve the epithets which had been applied to it. But whatever defects it might have, it at least kept the Bible before the children. Those who advocated a purely secular basis must say whether the Board of Education was to forbid the Bible entering the schools. Were they prepared to take up that position and insist that the Bible was the one book which the Board of Education was to declare should not enter the schools?

Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: When the hon. Member says that we declare that the Bible is the only book that should be kept out of the school he is wrong.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE said he was aware that there might be other books which the hon. Member would not like to see introduced into the schools, but the Bible was the only book which under this Amendment the Board of Education would have to interdict. To adopt that position would be absolutely fatal to any Education Bill and strong as the present

Government was it would be fatal to them. There were many Members of the Committee, some of them on the Ministerial side, who advocated secular teaching. He thought there were many who would feel justified in saying that if the Government had gone to the country with a programme of secular education as part of its education policy it would have come back as strong. That, of course, was the practical way of looking at it. Even now, some of those who had been engaged in Bible teaching for half a century were charged with being Atheists and Godless people because they were not prepared to take up this dogmatic teaching. He did not know what they could be called more than they had been called already, but if there were any other epithets they would have been used if the Government had gone to the country with a programme of that sort. He desired to say a few words upon the Amendment to the Amendment, moved by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. He could not agree with the hon. Member for Leicester who claimed that the right hon. Gentleman had shown consistency in the programme he had put before the Committee. He was old enough to remember the time when the right hon. Gentleman was a prominent member of the Birmingham Education League. At that time he was in favour of secular, or what was then called unsectarian education, and he did not then propound anything as an addition to secular educatoin like what he had foreshadowed in his speech of the previous night. The right hon. Gentleman first of all laid down the principle that the State had no right to interefere in religion. So far his hon. friend the Member for Burnley thought he had caught a very big fish, but the right hon. Gentleman very soon eluded his grasp by indicating what he desired to have done on this basis of purely secular education, namely, that all sorts of religious teaching should be given in the State schools in school hours by State paid teachers. That was rather a wide basis for secular education. How the right hon. Gentleman could claim to be in favour of secular education after what he had said the previous night was difficult to understand. The only saving clause was that it must not be at the public expense. It would be extremely unjust to attempt to carry out this Amendment and to say that it must not be at the public expense. The Bill provided for an expenditure of something like £1,000,000. The bulk of that money would go to one denomination and it should pay for all its religious teaching. Therefore it would be at the public expense, whereas the other denominations if they chose to deal with religious teaching at all on behalf of the sects to which they belonged, would have to pay for it out of their own pockets. The dominant church could pay for it out of the receipts from rent of buildings, and it would not cost them a penny. It seemed to him therefore on financial grounds that it would be unjust. He wondered how many teachers in the schools would be willing to support this introduction of religious teaching by all denominations in school hours. Nothing could be more disastrous. Did the right hon. Gentleman propose that they should enter on one day or that they should go on separate days of the week? How were all the sects to be accommodated? The free churches asked no such thing. They were wllling to submit to some fair and reasonable arrangement for giving undogmatic teaching in school hours, and they were willing to supplement the undogmatic teaching by such teaching as they were able themselves to provide. Referring to this undogmatic teaching Lord Hugh Cecil in one of hs speeches had said—

> "Board school teaching may be very good religious instruction so far as it goes, but there is then the fundamental objection that it cannot attach the child to a denomination."

He thought that that was the very strongest argument which could possibly be used in favour of this kind of teaching. The State had no right to give such religious teaching as would attach the child to a religious denomination. Therefore he and those who sympathised with him adopted this not logical position, but, as they thought, the best position that had yet been found. Were the members of the Catholic Church and of the Anglican Church prepared to let him as a Baptist into their schools, and to teach what he should undoubtedly have to teach if he took up the line of dogmatic teaching, that there was absolute error in proclaiming that salvation came from the sacraments, and a variety of other dogmas of that sort?

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Certainly, so far as Baptist children are concerned.

MR. GEORGE WHITE: I am delighted to see the liberal spirit which is growing.

LORD R. CECIL: It always was there.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said that so far as his experience of the rural districts went—and it was somewhat large—that liberal spirit did not prevail in the Anglican Church generally. It was absolutely wrong for the State to give dogmatic religious teaching in the schools. What effect would that have on the children? Could there be anything more deplorable than the setting of children aside in little groups in their early life, being made to take part in sectarian bickerings, which they would do, because though they understood nothing whatever about them they still would say, "I belong to this clergyman or that minister?" He had heard of two little girls who were discussing about their separate schools, and one of them said, "My school has got a fine weathercock." The other girl replied, "My school has got a mortgage." He thought the giving of this religious instruction would be grossly unfair in many other ways, and that it would operate against the very best interests of education. What was the position in which they found themselves by these two Amendments. One asked the Committee to say that there must be no flavour whatever of religion in the schools. To carry that out logically they must banish from the schools much of the very finest literature. He was sure his hon. friend the Member for Burnley did not take that position. Logically, the books built up on the Bible and many others were the very finest volumes in literature. If they were to deal with these things logically these books could be, and probably would be, excluded on the part of a section, but if logic was to rule they must follow that section just as they might follow the section now asking for the purely secular basis. He thought he had shown that it was impracticable to attempt to force on the Government a clause like this in connection with a Bill which they hoped to carry, and which would be for the benefit of education. He was sure the Amendment to the Amendment would be rejected by an enormous majority, because it not only did not banish the religious difficulties but increased them a thousand-fold. He hoped the Committee would reject the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley, though it was one for which he had more sympathy than he had for that of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) said the hon. Member for Leicester had made an appeal to him at the commencement of his speech which necessitated his making a further explanation. The hon. Member had asked, in effect, how far he should carry his Party with him in the Amendment he had moved to the Amendment. He thought the hon. Member implied that if he could assure him of substantial support for the Amendment as amended, the view of himself and many others who agreed with him, would be in favour of accepting that Amendment. [AN HON. MEMBER: No.] Then he thought he was hardly in a position to call him to account and invite him to explain how many of those who sat near him and behind him would follow him into the lobby. He did not know, but he could say for himself, that his proposal, which was made in all sincerity and honesty, was one which in his belief would be the ideal form, and that at any rate it was one out of two just solutions. The only two just solutions of the question were that the State should pay for all religions alike, or that it should pay for none. To pay for all was what was called denominationalism—an ugly word which might be accepted as defining the situation. That he had no doubt would be favoured by his friends behind him and by the Church for which they would principally speak, and at least it would be a fair solution. His only difficulty with regard to it was that he did not think it would be practicable. Then as to the other solution that the State should pay for none, he thought that was the principal object of the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Burnley, and he thought that the words "during school hours" had slipped in and were not an essential part of his proposition. He would tell the hon. Member for Leicester that he was inaccurately expressing the effect of his statement when he said that he desired or ever had desired education to be upon what he now called a "secular basis." The distinction between secular and secularist was a fine distinction which, although understood by the hon. Member and others skilled in dialectics, was not likely to be appreciated by the masses of the country. They would attribute the same meaning to both words. If the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had shown that he was assenting to the word "secular" then he might be accused of being a secularist as the hon Gentleman for Leicester inaccurately declared that he was in 1870. He was not a secularist in any sense in which that word was used in an expression by the hon. Member for Leicester attributed to the Prime Minister, when he said he had in a speech declared that he wished to keep religion out of the schools. He did not wish to keep religion out of the schools and never had. That was not the proposal of the National Education League and those associated with him in that agitation. On the contrary it was complementary to their proposal that the State should have nothing to do with religion, but that facility should be given equally to all denominations, in order that they might enter the schools and give their religious instruction. He imagined that the hon. Member for Burnley was not opposed to the facilities being given, provided it was not at the cost of the State, and that it was not given in school hours.

Mr. MADDISON (Burnley) said he made it perfectly plain in his speech that during school hours he was opposed to any form of religious instruction being given. They were quite in favour of full facilities for all denominations out of school hours.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN said that the difference between them was perfectly clear. The hon. Gentleman would allow the same facilities as he would only they must come half an hour before compulsory attendance. It was to their coming half an hour after compulsory attendance to which the hon. Gentleman objected.

*Mr. MADDISON said he did not commit hon. Members who agreed with him in this Amendment, because if this Amendment were carried, many consequential Amendments would be necessary. Speaking for himself, he made a great distinction between after school hours and before school hours, and he would only commit himself to facilities after school hours.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN said that this was where they differed, and this difference was important, because if this instruction was given out of school hours it would not be availed of. It would be perfectly useless and a sham. If it were the object of the hon. Member for Burnley that this religious instruction should not be banished from the schools, but should be given out of school hours, he was convinced that the hon. Gentleman would not obtain what he wished unless the instruction were given at the time of compulsory attendance. He did not claim perfect consistency with what he had said in 1870. In 1870 there was a beginning of a new system, and they had had no practical experience of how an attempt to give instruction by voluntary means would succeed. He said perfectly frankly the other day that the great scheme proposed by Dr. Dale had practically broken down, and that they were compelled to introduce into the schools of Birmingham a system of reading the Bible without note or comment. But they had gone through three stages since then. As regarded the teacher, the hon. Member for North West Norfolk had practically caricatured what he had said. He maintained that the real question was the liberty of the subject. They had no right to impose a disability on the teacher in the time for which he was not paid by the State, or to bring in any regulations whatever as to the use he wished to make of it. It was in the interest of the teacher and of freedom that the teacher should be allowed if he desired to give his services to any denomination to which he might belong and which might be willing to engage him.

Mr. WHITE said he never questioned that for a moment. That was not the point he touched.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he was glad to hear it. His proposal therefore was that, without calling upon the State to be responsible in any way for one penny of expenditure in the matter, all denominations should be allowed the entry which would enable them to give religious instruction. What was the objection? The hon. Member declared it was very unfair. Why? Because under the Bill the Government were going to take the property of the Church and to pay for it, and therefore that would put into the hands of the Church a sum of money they might apply to this kind of teaching. How did that come about? Simply because the Church had property which even this Government did not propose absolutely to confiscate. There was a time when the Nonconformists had a great deal of property. The Wesleyans had property in their schools to this day. Those who had provided schools at their own cost—whether Nonconformist, Wesleyan or Anglican—would, if they surrendered their schools under this Bill, be entitled to compensation. That was a mere accident, and it did not follow that the money they thus obtained for their own property would be earmarked and applied to giving religious instruction. What was at the bottom of a great deal of the opposition to this proposal? Simply the thought that the Church was too rich, and therefore better able to pay the cost. That was why the Nonconformists refused to allow equal justice to all sects. They were satisfied with a form of religious education which did not satisfy a minority, if not a majority, in the country, and desired to provide their system at the national expense, but would not allow the others to provide the education they desired even at their own expense. In these two Amendments they were dealing with the separation between religious and secular instruction. The fourth clause was a separate matter to be dealt with on its merits. He should vote for his Amendment. If that was carried he would certainly vote for the amended Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Burnley. If his Amendment was not carried he should vote against the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley on the ground that it would not provide facilities which would be given to secure elementary religious education in the schools.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury) said he would never presume to charge the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham with inconsistency in the views which he held in 1870 and those which he held now, because he gathered that they were different only so far as regarded administration. And surely in that question they ought freely to admit that any proposal must be in the nature of an experiment, and the experiment which the right hon. Gentleman suggested in 1870 had been found to be a failure. It never caught the imagination of the country. It had not been tolerated in a single great city of the country, so far as he knew, for any length of time. Having said that, he thought they might examine the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman without any reference to what he said in 1870 or 1874 when the agitation was at its height. The proposal now made seemed to him to centre round two points, namely, whether the religious instruction should be given within school hours or outside school hours, and whether that religious teaching should be given by the teachers or by someone who came from outside.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: May be given by the teachers.

*MR. RUNCIMAN: Yes, but what does it amount to? The right hon. Gentleman desires that attendance at religious instruction shall be compulsory.

MR J. CHAMBERLAIN: May I say what I propose is that every child should be required to go in at the proper time, and according to the desire of his parents he should go either to the secular instruction or to the religious instruction?

*MR. RUNCIMAN: If the right hon. Gentleman did not mean that there should be compulsory attendance during the hour for this specific purpose [OPPOSITION cries of "No, no!"] that was what in practice it must amount to. And if so, he wanted to know what became of the parent. Why should not the parent have the right to absent his child from the school at those very hours which were earmarked for religious instruction? Let him turn to another point, namely, that of the teachers. Really the whole subject of tests for teachers turned on the conditions of employment and the payment which should be made. It was not only a question of whether or not they induced the teacher *de facto* to be attached to a denomination in order to secure what he believed to be a fair remuneration for the work he performed. That might not be particularly obvious without illustration. He would take an illustration. They might have a school of say 400 children, where the headmaster was paid £250 a year in the gross. Under the right hon. Gentleman's scheme it might be possible for £50 to be paid from denominational funds, and £200 from public funds. He became, in fact, partly the servant of the denomination, and partly the servant of the public body. Such a proposal as that was unworkable. They ought not to ask any teacher to be the servant of two masters. He would turn from that subject to the real subject of discussion that afternoon, namely,the question whether or not we were to have in this country a system of purely secular instruction. He should like to know, in the first place, what was the meaning of purely secular instruction. He knew that his hon. friends the Members for Leicester and for North West Ham appeared to have clear ideas in their heads as to what they meant, but he would point out to them that whenever the system of secular instruction had been tried throughout the English speaking world, the syllabus had been frequently changed. In some cases it went so far as to lay down that any reference to God was to be cut out of Shakespeare, Paradise Lost was expurgated, and Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress was placed in the Index Expurgatorius. It was perfectly obvious that nothing of that kind could be tolerated in this country, and he believed it had already been abandoned in some of our Colonies. In others where they had what was called purely secular instruction, Biblical instruction was carried on very much as in our own schools at the present time. He understood that in some they did not commence with prayer, but they had Biblical instruction. In others where they adhered to the system of purely secular instruction they had hymns but no prayers, and they had the Bible. He thought, therefore, when his hon. friends advocated a system of purely secular instruction and endeavoured to persuade the Government to adopt it, they ought to define clearly what they meant. After all, the whole thing centred around what appeared in the syllabus. He knew that there was one hon. Member who was a very prominent speaker for the Labour Party in this country—the hon. Member for Blackburn—who in most eloquent language had expressed his views on the subject. Only in February of this year, he said it would indeed be an irreparable loss if the Bible, the most beautiful book of history, of poetry, and of moral teaching ever given to the world, were to be excluded from the children's education because of unfortunate differences as to certain parts of the book. The hon. Member had said that to any liberal education or moral training the Bible must contribute. That was the view of one of the Labour Members who sat upon the other side of the House. The hon. Member for Leicester had made no statement whatever of his views as to the inclusion or exclusion of the Bible from our schools. He quite agreed that the hon. Member did not say that the Bible was the one book which he would exclude, nor did he say that the Bible was one of the books which he would include, and until they had some definite assurance as to what was meant by purely secular instruction he thought they were adopting the safer course if they adhered to the syllabus which almost throughout the whole country had been found the most workable and most successful. He could not agree that there had been any particular advance towards the secular position, even during the last few years. He knew that the majority sitting below the gangway on the other side were in favour of purely secular instruction; that there were also some Nonconformists who said they were in favour of it, and also some Bishops, High Churchmen and Catholics; but he thought one ought to point out that in nearly every case the reason why these gentlemen had declared in favour of purely secular instruction was not because they preferred it to religious instruction, but because from sheer desperation they thought it was the only way out of the difficulty. [Cries of "No."] Well, he was only stating his own view.

Mr. BYLES (Salford, N.): You are pretending to speak our views.

*Mr. RUNCIMAN said that as to the Nonconformists he was absolutely convinced that taking any of the villages in any county of the United Kingdom, the Nonconformists as a body were not in favour of purely secular instruction. He ventured to say that nine-tenths of those who now sat on the Ministerial side of the House of Commons would not have been there if they had advocated at the last election, or any previous election, the secularising of our schools. He believed that these gentlemen had been driven to this position because of the unreasonableness of those who occupied an extreme position on either side. The man in the street, after all, did not appreciate the extreme views on one side or the other. When they saw a prominent ecclesiastical journal describing the Bill as a brutal one and drawing attention to its frank savagery, he thought they might well understand why some men said that such extravagant language was unintelligible to them. On the other side was to be put the equally extravagant and unintelligible language of people who said, "Let us have an end of all these parsons and their religion, let us take the purely secular position." These gentlemen adopted this position out of sheer desperation. Was there any hon. Gentleman in this Committee who would declare that the majority of elementary school teachers in the country wished to see a purely secular system of education? Could the hon. Member for North Camberwell declare that the teachers with whom he was associated by a majority were in favour of purely secular education? He believed they were not. [Dr. MACNAMARA: "Hear, hear."] The value of Bible teaching, simple Bible reading, to the teachers was supposed to be enormous; they relied upon it to a large extent and they did not wish to see it wiped out of the syllabus. Of course he knew that they did not want to go into the finer distinctions of theology. He doubted whether there were any teachers who taught up to the sixth standard who entered on dissertations on baptismal regeneration, upon which he remarked that even the dignitaries of the Church of England were not agreed any more than those who were attached to the great Nonconformist bodies. Nor did they wish in the voluntary schools to describe all the definitions of the Atonement, nor to go into the arguments for or against the Immaculate Conception, nor to express the various views of the Resurrection. But the simple Bible teaching and the very elements of Christianity were regarded as being of supreme value.

He wished to point out how very difficult it would be for a teacher who wished to give religious instruction to his children to keep his religious feelings out of his tuition. For instance, the teacher who wished to inculcate a respect for truth into his pupils—the chances were that if he were a religious man he would immediately draw the attention of the child to the fact that the Scripture said that "no liar shall inherit the Kingdom of God," and who was to find fault with him for doing that? If he wished to inculcate the principles of justice he would immediately quote another portion of Scripture which says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged," and so on throughout all the great moral maxims. They would turn to the authority of Scripture for support. They might ask the teacher to teach his children purity, and he might do it merely on principles of hygiene, but it was probable that if he were a religious man he would appeal to the old Book and say, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." In fact there was hardly any department of moral instruction where the teacher would not turn to the Bible not only for his own moral inspiration, but also for the exercise of the authority which he wished to exercise over the child. He did not wish to labour the point of the teachers' case, because they had many of them in the Committee who were capable of speaking for themselves, and he wished they had more. If they had, they would soon get rid of a great deal of nonsense which was talked about Cowper-Templeism. He had taken the trouble to obtain copies of the syllabus used by the Education Committees of Manchester, Middlesex, Kent, Lancashire, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, and others, indeed from almost every county educational committee in the Kingdom. These committees were now running their schools upon Cowper-Temple lines, and it would not be believed by the Committee that an attack was made upon Cowper-Templeism if he referred to the syllabus itself. In Middlesex, in Standard I. the children learnt the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm, and a number of select hymns and texts; in Standard II., a little of the New Testament, and certain portions of St. Matthew's Gospel; in Standard III., Psalm 19 and St. Matthew's Gospel; in Standard IV., Deuteronomy and the Gospel of St. John; in Standard V., Psalm 25, the Epistle to the Ephesians, a portion of the Epistle to the Corinthians, and also the lives of Samuel, Saul, David, and Elisha; in Standard VI. a portion of Isaiah, and the Epistle to the Ephesians; and in Standard VII., other Old Testament Prophets, another portion of Isaiah, and the Gospel of St. John. Such was the syllabus which was now being attacked by those who were against the Cowper-Temple teaching. How many hon. Gentlemen opposite approved of Cowper-Temple teaching? He ventured to think that there were not 10 per cent. of them who would get up and advocate it. The ordinary proceedings of the day began with prayers for the benefit of the morning school which consisted of the Lord's Prayer, and prayers which were drawn up in Middlesex as elsewhere by those who were denominationalists including not only Nonconformists, but also members of the English Church. Then in the evening they closed with prayers and hymns which were not of great dogmatic value but had a certain influence on the mind and on the memory of the child. That was what was being talked of by Members like the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City, when they said they did not like Cowper-Temple teaching.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is quite misrepresenting me. On the contrary I attach the greatest value to Cowper-Temple teaching. I not only said I attached great value to it, but I said in my speech that I would prefer this unjust and one-sided system to a system which excluded religion.

*MR. RUNCIMAN: I ask the right hon. Gentleman's pardon if I misrepresented him. I quite understood him to assert that he was not in favour of Cowper-Temple teaching. May I ask whether he is or is not?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: A Cowper-Temple Clause which forbids anything but Cowper-Temple teaching I think grossly unfair and unjust, but a great deal of the most admirable religious teaching is given under that grossly unfair and unjust system.

*MR. RUNCIMAN: I am sure the right hon. Gentleman will agree that I had no desire to misrepresent him. What I understood him to say was that Cowper-Temple teaching could not be satisfactory to him. It could not be regarded as adequate, and it was for the purposes of religious instruction not what he desired. If I misunderstood him I accept his explanation quite fully. If, said the hon. Member continuing, they were going to remove Cowper-Templeism from the schools they were going to take away the great basis on which he believed they could, as the children grew older raise up a fine religious superstructure. It was perfectly clear that to the man in the street this quarrel over the Cowper-Temple clause was absolutely unintelligible. Many of those who were educated in schools where the Cowper Temple clause was supposed to be adequate could not understand how objection was taken to it, and why it was not adequate now. He believed the Government Bill met the very difficulty that had been raised. He believed that in Clause 4 facilities were provided which would allow to be added to this basis of Cowper-Templeism a certain amount of dogmatic teaching of which no doubt a large number of Denominationalists would avail themselves. The ordinary man in the street, however, when he was at school and learnt to sing "Lead, Kindly Light," did not know there was anything wrong in its undenominational character, and when he sang "Nearer My God to Thee" or the Old Hundredth he did not recognise them as purely Nonconformist hymns. Then why say that the Cowper-Temple clause was Nonconformist teaching? [OPPOSITION cries of "We do not."] This was the first time they had had, either in this debate or in that of 1902, any admission that it was other than Nonconformist teaching. For his part he should be prepared to vote against purely secular instruction, no matter from what quarter the proposal might come, and he could not believe that the people cared anything about the political quarrel here, but they wanted their children to lead godly, righteous, and sober lives, and did not wish to banish the Bible from the schools.

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said the Amendment now before the Committee raised the most momentous issue that had yet been opened up in these debates. His strong conviction was in agreement with the views of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, that whatever might be the defects of the Bill now before the Committee, however great its inequalities and want of equity in many respects, it was infinitely superior to the Amendments which in different ways accepted the secular basis of education. In 1888 a Commission dealt with the question of secularism and religious teaching and one of the findings of the Commission was as follows—

> "We are convinced that if the State were to secularise education it would be a violation of the wishes of the parents."

That result was arrived at after much inquiry, and he believed that if at this time the question could come before the country as to whether it wished for secularism, its opinion would be as clearly expressed as was that of the Commission of 1888. He freely admitted that the Amendment to the Amendment, proposed by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was, from the point of view of those who wished to retain definite religious teaching in the schools, far superior to the original Amendment. It gave them three things. It gave religious teaching in compulsory school hours; it allowed religious teaching to be given by one of the staff of the school; and it admitted of the free entry of the denominations to give such teaching as they desired. Yet he could not think that the Amendment, though it did differ widely from the first Amendment, would not in its final result bring about secular education pure and simple. It needed but one more step to force on the secularist position and lead to the State disassociating itself entirely from religion. The Amendment laid it down that the State had no financial concern with religious instruction, though it was so far concerned as to set aside a compulsory school hour in which religious instruction should be given by the denominations. The driving force of logic on the secularist side was strong; it would be said irresistibly "if the State has no financial concern with religious instruction, why should it have any concern with it at all." Such was the intention of the original Amendment. Religious teaching was to be taken out of school hours and to be left entirely in the hands of the denominations, with teachers brought in from outside. The first result would be that the moral unity of the school would be lost; the moral unity, the tone and discipline which arose from the connection of religious with secular instruction. Once those two were dissociated, and the link severed that bound them together through the personality of the teacher, the educational framework of the school would be disjointed. There was, however, a far more important objection to the proposal than that. The Commission of 1888 found that there were two large and typical classes of parents in our great cities, whose children would probably get no religious instruction if it were not given by the State. There were, first, those poor but deserving parents whose lives were passed in the strain and stress of industrial competition; whose time was so occupied day and night as to render them unable, even if they were willing, to have regard to the spiritual welfare of their children; parents who were themselves uninstructed, and who, even if they had the time, had not the knowledge to instruct their children in religious matters. Next, there were parents who were negligent, criminal, or dissolute, and it was needless to speak of the education that would be given by them to their children. So that of the possible agencies which might take the place of the schools for religious instruction, the home and home influence might for those great multitudes of children be set aside. Then as to the other agencies, the Church, the Chapel, the Clergy, and all the voluntary associations that were in existence. He believed it was even more true to-day than when the Commission made its Report, that if all the organisations of the churches were put together, all their staffs of clergy and teachers would be utterly inadequate to cope with our great and growing population, especially when regard was had to the mobility of that population; it was in many places a loose and shifting population. The Report of the Commission in 1888 said—

> "For the mass of children above described, we must put on record our opinion, that if they do not receive religious instruction and training from the teachers in the public elementary schools, they will receive none, and

this is a matter of the gravest concern to the State."

These words carried greater force to-day than when they were written. No one who honestly reflected on the conditions of life in our great industrial centres could fail to see that there were children who were mere waifs and strays, derelict children, who were outside the membership of the Churches, and who would be brought up in blank and heathenish ignorance unless the State stepped in and set in motion that great machinery which the State alone was able to supply. They must face the actual facts and not trust to some ideal hopes of what reorganised religious bodies might do in the future. Bishop Butler somewhere spoke of children as strangers who entered a world which was already in the possession of grown people. Towards those strangers the Members of this Committee owed enormous responsibilities. To multitudes of them they stood, as regards their religious welfare, in the place of parents; and he entreated the Committee to pass no vote by which those children should remain strangers and aliens, exiled for ever from the larger hope. He intended to vote against the first Amendment.

*SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.) said there was a desire in all parts of the Committee that in carrying out the principles of popular control and the abolition of tests for teachers, and in so doing removing grievances which had been in existence since 1902, there should be due regard to the neutrality of the State towards all religions. Clause 1 endeavoured to secure uniformity, but where that clause kept the promise of hope to the ear, Clauses 3 and 4, he thought, would break it to the hope. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had stated that the proposal of the hon. Gentleman for Burnley offered one out of the only two solutions whereby the principle of absolute neutrality of the State in regard to all religions might be secured.. If the State was to be neutral towards religion it must subsidise either all religions or none. There must be concurrent endowment of all, or no endowment of any. The Bill in its present form did neither. The inalienable right of the parent to demand that the State should provide at its expense religious instruction in accord with the faith of the parent was repudiated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he did not think anyone had revived that proposition since the right hon. Gentleman spoke on the Second Reading. The only logical alternative, therefore, was to confine the secular arm of the State to secular matters, and neither compel attendance at public elementary schools for religious instruction nor exact payment from the ratepayers for purposes of religious instruction. When the right hon. Member for West Birmingham endeavoured to divide the double-barrelled Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley into two parts and accepted the one and declined the other he put himself in a somewhat illogical position in maintaining that it was not part of the duty of the State to compulsorily exact payment for the purpose of religious instruction, but that it was part of the duty of the State to compel the attendance of children at public elementary schools in order to receive religious instruction. They had been told by the Minister for Education that the position taken up by the Member for Burnley was the logical position, and he (Sir William Collins) had yet to learn that the logical and the rational position in this matter must be the supremely bad, and that that which was illogical should alone be the supremely wise position. The Minister for Education was not always so severe upon the logical position. It was dangerous to quote him, because the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover, having given one quotation in the earlier debate, was assured that it was meant ironically, and that he was misapprehending the intention of his right hon. friend. But in that charming book which every one had read, *Obiter Dicta*, he found at the commencement of one of the most entertaining chapters these words—

> "The world is governed by logic. Truth, as well as Providence, is always on the side of the strongest battalions. An illogical opinion only requires rope enough to hang itself."

He did not know whether his right hon. friend in Clauses 3 and 4 of this Bill was providing rope enough to secure the hanging of the illogical opinion. They were told that although the position was logical it was absolutely impossible, but he warned the Committee that in this matter the words of Charles Reade might come true and the impossible might disguise itself as a fact and go through the hollow mockery of taking place.

What was the grievance of the passive resister? He understood it to be that he was compelled to pay for teaching a religion he abhorred. The Bill shifted the grievance, but it did not cure it. They had been told by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, speaking on behalf of the Catholics, that the Catholics regarded simple Bible teaching under the Cowper-Temple Clause not only as inadequate, but as bad, as hostile, and as abhorrent to their religious convictions, and in great part as a hostile religion. He agreed entirely with those who said that in these matters of conscience it was the individual who suffered under the law, and not the majority who made the law who should have the final word as to what it was that offended the conscience, and he took it that under the proposals of the Government the conscience of a large section of the community would be offended by sanctioning the teaching of Cowper-Templeism at the expense of the State. He had listened to the able speech of the hon. Member for Norwich, and he would venture to appeal from the new to the old Nonconformist opinion, which he thought was somewhat more liberal with regard to this question. In the year 1870, when the memorable Amendment of Mr. Richard was moved in this House, the mover said—

> "If I know anything of the principles of Nonconformity, one of the most fundamental and universally acknowledged by them is this —that it is not right to take money received from the general taxation of the country and apply it to purposes of religious instruction and worship."

He appealed from the new Nonconformity to the old Nonconformity, which he thought represented a truer type of liberal opinion than some of those he had heard expressed recently. Moreover, they knew in the year 1870, from that interesting biography of Mr. Gladstone by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India, that an important correspondence took place between Cardinal Manning and Mr. Gladstone about that time. Cardinal Manning wrote to Mr. Gladstone in these words—

> "I am glad to see you lay down the broad and intelligible line that State grants go to secular education and voluntary efforts must do the rest."

That solution Mr. Gladstone maintained and believed was in no way unfriendly to religion. The Amendment of Mr. Richard in 1870 received the support of the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister, who, in a speech at the Alexandra Palace in November, 1902, said—

> "If we had our way there would be no religious differences at all. We should confine ourselves (I believe nine-tenths of Liberals would confine themselves) to secular education, and to such moral precepts as would be common to all and would not be obnoxious to people who do not come within the range of Christianity."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that a system of secular instruction need not exclude the Bible. From his (Sir William Collins') point of view he did not believe any secular education would be complete without a knowledge of the literature of the Bible and of the historical matters with which it dealt. It was said that it was difficult, or almost impracticable, to separate moral from religious instruction. That was a point urged by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board. It was true, no doubt, that no matter with what subject of education they were dealing, no matter what science they might be studying, if they went deep or far enough they were confronted with the great problems of law, cause, and force, and questions of how, why, whence, and whither, on which they came to the shore of the infinite, the abyss of the absolute. Religious teaching differed from all other instruction in that at the very outset these fundamental questions arose and were answered variously according to different creeds. For his own part he associated himself entirely with those who advocated this solution on grounds of true religion and piety. The use of the ambiguous word "secular" was apt to mislead. In one sense it meant neutrality towards all religions, and in another, antagonism towards any religion. It was because he believed that this secular solution as it was called would tend to awaken fresh life in the Churches, the Chapels, and the Sunday schools, when they realised that their work was not to be imperfectly done by the State, and because he believed that this solution would be really carrying out the Divine injunction of rendering unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's, that he desired to limit the intervention of the State to secular education with reference to both payment and compulsory attendance.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said he thought he had some grounds for speaking in this debate. In the first place he had the right every hon. Member had to speak on what, after all, was by far the most important part of this important Bill. He was brought up in the echoes of the 25th clause of the Education Act of 1870, and he supposed those with whom he had lived had been as closely concerned with the cause of education as any Member of this Committee. He wished he could worthily represent what he believed would have been the testimony of every one of those persons in the discussion which was now taking place. He believed that the universal testimony of all those whom he had known and who had been associated with this great educational problem would be that which he also desired to offer, and which he would like to render in a way worthy of them. Nonconformists professed that they had taken a liberal view of this question, but in many respects they failed to see how local and temporary their view was. Some of the dogmatic utterances which had been put forward were far from having any relation to the general movement throughout the world. He thought the Committee ought to vote for the last Amendment. By law they compelled every parent to send his child to school, and they had taken upon themselves the enormous responsibility of providing an avenue between the child's soul and any knowledge of and communication with the spiritual world and spiritual things. The hon. Member for Leicester had urged that they should cut away all religious teaching from the State, but he could not accept that argument. They had already declared by the Bill that the child should be educated in religion, at the expense of the State, and therefore they should take care that the religion in which their children were educated should be the greatest boon which could possibly be bestowed upon them. It was said that this duty could only be carried out by giving the child a limited teaching under the Cowper-Temple Clause. Did the history of mankind justify the view that we could have really well-educated children without the co-operation of and without taking into their confidence those to whom faith was a living reality? The hon. Member for Dewsbury had told the Committee that they were justified in relying on the fact that certain passages were taught to the children. Every one of those passages might be taught, and the minds and spirits of the children left absolutely untouched. The teacher might make the whole difference between truth and falsehood, life and death, reality and nonentity, by the spirit in which he taught these things. The teaching of the London School Board had been described as very good. He had heard that the teachers who taught under the Board at the commencement of the school board *régime* were for the most part men who brought to their work a keen faith in what they taught; but he understood that that was no longer so to the same degree. Even the hon. Member for Leicester had admitted that the standard had not been maintained. The Committee had been told that they ought to be guided by the examples of France, Australia, and the United States. He thought the Committee would not do well to adopt that recommendation. He once prepared a set of text-books for Australian schools under an extreme *régime*, which he was happy to think had now been abandoned. He was not allowed to mention the name of the Deity, or to quote from Scripture or to enlarge on any Scripture doctrine, but merely to put in its place some machine-made morality. He had some acquaintance with a French work intended to teach morality apart from religious instruction. Children were told that they must honour their parents, and it was explained that those who did not do so were liable to an *amende* of 5 francs under the code. He did not think Australia had got very far on the journey upon which it set out, and they were finding out it was leading them to a sad conclusion. He did not know enough of what took place in the great States of the Union to say much in regard to the teaching there, but what he had heard made him feel that the United States had not received much encouragement to pursue the path upon which they had set out. What he did suggest to the Committee was that, if religion was to be taught, they must give that religion the chance which all religions had demanded and at the best times had obtained. The idea of teaching the morality of the Bible by merely repeating the verses of the Bible was childish. No country had ever attempted to inculcate morality in its people by merely reciting its religious books without any exegesis of those books. They could not give religious instruction by merely reciting passages from the Bible without comment, because the whole value of that recitation depended absolutely upon the spirit of the person reading and the comment with which it was accompanied. As they had ordained that religious instruction should be taught, then they should let those who were most competent teach it. Was the House of Commons going to say, "This is the religion of the people of England." Such an idea was absurd. By this Bill they were endeavouring to fix a minimum which was not acceptable to a large number of conscientious people, and they were trying to prevent them going beyond that minimum. With regard to Cowper-Temple teaching he had known instances where it had been given as devotedly and conscientiously as any denominational teaching, but they had no guarantee in regard to it. If they excluded from the schools people who loved what they taught, they would sterilise and atrophy what they taught. In this matter they had to look further than the duration of this Parliament. As the State had made up its mind that it would be responsible for the spiritual guidance of children in our schools, he desired to range himself on the side of those who would not keep out of the schools those who cared most about making their teaching a living reality. Some hard things and some true things had been said about the teaching in schools other than the elementary school. Those, however, who had been educated at public schools knew the help and power they derived from home teaching and from coming in contact with great minds, but hon. Members should not forget that there were millions of poor children who were likely to be deprived of that enormous advantage which came from personal contact with a great soul and a great teacher. The Christian Brothers had been mentioned. He thought that was an extraordinary example of what they could gain by enlisting on their side men who had a whole-hearted ambition to do their duty, and teach that which they believed to be true. He knew the work the Christian Brothers had done, and they dare not shut out in Ireland the Christian Brothers from the schools. [An HON. MEMBER: But they do not take State funds.] He knew that quite well, but the object of this very Amendment was that they should have people teaching religion because they believed in it without being supported from State funds, and that was why he had quoted the Christian Brothers. For those reasons he proposed to support the Amendment to the Amendment, and he hoped it would be made effective by the carrying of the Amendment as well.

*DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said he would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down on what evidence he had made the statement that religious teaching had deteriorated under the London School Board. It was laid down first of all in a scheme in the preparation of which a former Tory Leader of this House, Mr. W. H. Smith, took an honourable part. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the hon. Member for Leicester as decrying the London system, but he said nothing of the sort.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he would be only too delighted if he was shown to be wrong. He believed that the reason alleged was that a smaller proportion of teachers went through the training colleges.

*DR. MACNAMARA replied that there were more teachers going through the training colleges, and more going through denominational colleges, than ever. The right hon. Gentleman's statement was entirely groundless. The right hon. Gentleman had given the Committee some of his reminiscences as a book writer for the Colony of Australia. He was asked to write a book suited to all tastes, and he appeared to be admirably adapted for the task. If it failed he could always have an expurgated second edition. All he could hope was that the right hon. Gentleman would not treat the Deity as he treated free trade and cut Him out of the second edition altogether. He wished to express his gratitude to the leader of the Opposition for his deliberate statement that, bad as it was from his point of view, he would rather have Cowper-Temple teaching than nothing at all. He hoped that statement would reach the ears of the noble Lord who sat behind the right hon. Gentleman and of many militant Bishops. The Bishop of Rochester, who was now Bishop of Southwark, once said that the Cowper-Temple clause was an ugly, shifting, shapeless monster. The Amendment of the right hon Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham would, he gathered, receive the support of the Party opposite. It had the support of the Leader of the Opposition, and it had the equal distinction of being blessed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon. It was therefore to that Amendment that he desired to direct particular attention. He was deeply grateful to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham for his statement on the Second Reading that, now that the teaching profession was a branch of the Civil Service, teachers must be immune from religious tests. It was, however, no longer ago than four years that the Leader of the Opposition when Prime Minister, to whom the right hon. Gentleman referred for confirmation, said that anybody who advocated that was guilty of raving lunacy. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, by his Amendment, said in effect, "We will spend public money in compelling parents to send their children to school to get religious teaching, or set their children aside for secular instruction during the time of religious teaching." He would ask the out-and-out secularists who were in favour of secular schools, and who were on a much firmer basis than the right hon. Gentleman, whether they could vote for a proposition which did one of two things, namely, compelled parents to send their children to get religious instruction which they did not wish them to receive, or compelled them to have their children invidiously set aside while religious instruction was going on. The right hon. Gentleman's scheme provided for the right on entry all round. Did he think that at all a practical scheme? The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Government were setting up and endowing undenominationalism, but he was himself setting up and endowing pandemonium. The right hon. Gentleman's proposition was entirely fantastic and did not come up to his suggestion that they should not spend public money on the religion of anyone. The hon. Member for Burnley and those who were associated with him were on firmer ground. They went straight for secular schools, and he admitted they had all the logic and all the doctrinaire arguments on their side. He admitted that the scheme of the Bill was indefensible from the point of view of dry and doctrinaire logic; but it had behind it thirty-five years of unqualified practical success. Secular schools were entirely out of touch with national sentiment. Their institution was possible from the moment Mr. Forster's Bill was passed, because the Cowper-Temple clause permitted them to be set up. Why had they never been set up? He objected to the advocates of a secular solution superimposing upon the statute-book that which they might have got, and had not got, locally. What was the good of saying that the people wanted secular schools. The history of the school boards shewed they did not. If the Committee would permit him he would read an extremely interesting letter which Mr. Cowper-Temple wrote on May 6th, 1872, and which was absolutely apposite to the present situation. He said—

> "The Bill nearly made shipwreck on account of the religious difficulty, which was so enormously exaggerated by theorists, but which has never appeared a very real difficulty to those who are practically acquainted with education. The great difficulty was that of the secular party trying to persuade other people that those who advocated unsectarianism were adopting a visionary, hopeless, and impossible scheme. If the thing had been argued upon merely theoretical grounds, I think the secular party might have succeeded in convincing people that unsectarian education was impossible, but the arguments they used went for very little. . . . Experience has shown that in unsectarian schools religion can be taught in a most practical, efficient, and useful way, supplying to the children the amount of religious knowledge which they require without trenching upon those theological disputes, controversial difficulties, and alarming apprehensions which have induced many good men who love the Bible themselves to be driven to the extreme and abhorrent view that they must absolutely exclude the Bible from the schools."

That was very applicable to the present situation. On all the theoretical argument he would give the supporters of the secular basis their own way; but here was Mr. Cowper-Temple's statement that what they said was impossible could be carried to a success. Tens of thousands of children would be shut out from the sweetening and beautifying influence of religious truth if Bible teaching was excluded from the schools, and even if he had no other argument, he would urge it with all the power he could command.

MR. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich) said he agreed with one remark of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, that it was extremely easy to make a strong argumentative case for a purely secular solution of this difficulty. He had listened with the greatest admiration to the speech of the hon. Member for Leicester who had disposed once for all of the idea that there could be such a thing as [undogmatic Christianity taught in our schools. He, therefore, was surprised that the last speaker from the Treasury Bench had not realised that the teaching he was defending was not undogmatic teaching. Christianity was dogma, and it was absolutely impossible to teach it without teaching dogma. The case for the secular solution had been best put on the previous evening by the hon. Member for North West Ham, whose two arguments were that the secular solution was the simple and natural solution, and that there was no alternative between that solution and the Bill now under discussion. He admitted that it was apparently the simplest way of putting out that fire which for twenty-six years had either smouldered or flamed in this country. It was an open question whether it had done more harm smouldering or in flames, for when it smouldered the system of elementary education remained unchanged, because no political Party was willing to face the danger of changing it. The children's interests were thus sacrificed on the altars of religious bigotry. [Cries of "No."] No one knew this better than the Member for the City of London, who knowingly risked unpopularity to improve elementary education. This Bill proved his success, for it left the educational system practically as it was left by his right hon. friend. The business of the Government was not to take the easiest solution; it was to choose the solution that was best for the people of England. In talking of the logic of facts, the hon. Member for North West Ham had omitted to note the one fact that the majority of the people of England wished to have religious instruction in their schools. That fact excluded absolutely from their purview the secular solution. For the hon. Member's second point that there was no alternative solution except this Bill, the argument was extremely weak—the mandate of the country. The hon. Member had poured deserved contempt on the idea that there was any mandate.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said that what he had stated was that there was a mandate for popular control.

MR. BONAR LAW said he accepted the hon. Gentlemen's explanation, but he had read the hon. Gentleman's speech that morning and certainly he did ridicule the idea that there was any mandate for the particular Bill now before the House.

MR. MASTERMAN: Quite right.

MR. BONAR LAW said there was nothing new as to the theory of mandates. The only mandate clearly given was that the country was tired of them and desired a change; and there were indications that perhaps they were repenting of that view. [AN HON. MEMBER: Where are they?] If any mandate was given on the education question, it was to correct the injustice which any particular class of the community suffered under the education system as left by the Act of 1902. If the Government had set themselves only to that task, it would have been much easier, more statesmanlike, and in the end better even for their Party interests than the course they had taken. The Minister for Education had made use of an epigram of which he had since repented. Had he ever discovered why this particular epigram had "taken on" so much? It was not that it was a particularly good one.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): It is not an epigram at all.

MR. BONAR LAW thought it sounded like one. What did the right hon. Gentleman call it then?

MR. BIRRELL: A platitude.

MR. BONAR LAW said the right hon. Gentleman had made hundreds of other platitudes—if he preferred that word—which were far better, but which no one remembered. Why was "minorities must suffer" remembered? It was remembered because it was true, because it exactly expressed the spirit in which this Bill had been introduced. The President of the Board of Trade, who represented far better than any other Minister the force—strong because it was so narrow—that was behind the Bill, gave his views to the House with perfect frankness and distinctness. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "We are willing to give facilities to Roman Catholics; but as for the Church of England, it ought to be either Catholic or Protestant, and if it is Protestant, what we propose ought to be good enough for it."

[MINISTERIAL cheers.] Hon. Members cheered; but did they not see that that was precisely the spirit which always animated religious intolerance and persecution? Men never or rarely persecuted on religious grounds unless they believed that the views which they tried to compel other people to adopt were good for the other people. That was exactly the position of the President of the Board of Trade. But the right hon. Gentleman should realise that the real question at issue was not whether the Bill ought to satisfy the Church of England, but whether it did, in fact, satisfy the Church of England. It was said that the agitation against the Bill was got up by the Bishops and clergy. If that were true the Bill might pass. But if, as he believed, hostility to the Bill was felt by the great body of the Church of England, no majority, no power that the Government possessed, could make the Bill the law of England.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I think the hon. Gentleman is now transcending even the rather wide limits of this Amendment.

MR. BONAR LAW said he desired to show that there was an alternative to secularism. The hon. Member for North West Ham had referred to Canada to prove that there was no solution but secularism.

MR. MASTERMAN said he referred to Upper Canada to show that the system which he recommended was in operation there.

MR. BONAR LAW said the hon. Member had forgotten that during the last two or three years there had been the keenest struggle in Canada, not about Quebec, but over the form of religious instruction to be adopted in the New Provinces, and that the problem had been solved by a Liberal Government, not by such a system as was proposed by the Bill or by secularism, but by a system of denominational education. The President of the Board of Trade had described Dr. Clifford and Oliver Cromwell as the two greatest outstanding Nonconformists. Personally he had always had a strong admiration for Cromwell, which perhaps was a strange confession from one who imagined himself to be a Tory. He thought that Cromwell had been badly treated by the Party opposite. It was bad enough that a year or two ago an oration was delivered over him by Lord Rosebery and at the same time his life was written by the Secretary for India. Every one knew that the character of Cromwell and the character of the Secretary for India were in every respect antipathetic. But the President of the Board of Trade had gone much further in his view of Cromwell. As a matter of fact Cromwell was, for his day, a man who above all his contemporaries was distinguished by a desire for religious tolerance. [Loud cries of "Oh" from the NATIONALIST Benches.] He did not expect that that statement would be accepted by hon. Members for Ireland. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Have you read history at all?] There were plenty Dr. Cliffords and plenty Presidents of the Board of Trade in Cromwell's time, and one of Cromwell's most difficult tasks was to prevent these gentlemen from flying at the throats of those with whom they disagreed on religious grounds.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said that thirty-five years had shown that under the Cowper-Temple clause fundamental Christianity could be taught without any difficulty. Parents of all denominations accepted it, and often sent their children to board schools in order to get it. There was no religious difficulty in the schools themselves. He had been a member of a school board in which Anglicans, Nonconformists, Conservatives, and Liberals were represented, and they had always worked together without any friction. In the school religious instruction was given by a member of the Church of England, and was without the slightest taint of dogma. He acknowledged that it was not possible to give simple Bible teaching without comment; for instance, it was impossible to teach children about publicans and sinners without telling them that a publican was not a man who kept a public-house. In his view the difficulty was to introduce dogma into teaching, and for his own part he would not teach the difference between the various denominations in the Evangelical Churches. He quite understood the difficulties of the Roman Catholics and Jews. The Roman Catholics believed that secular education must be permeated through and through by religious instruction. It was only fair, therefore, that when they were in sufficient numbers to make a school for themselves that should be done, although in isolated cases they must be content to withdraw their children from instruction. The Amendment before them would not, however, meet the Roman Catholics' view. The right hon. Member for Dover had spoken of the parent's right to have his child brought up in the faith which he himself professed. But the Church of England was not a faith. It was only a form of worship; the faith was the Protestant faith. If on five days of the week children were grounded in those fundamental truths upon which all Protestants were agreed, they could be taught the tenets of the different sects in the Sunday school or on Saturday evening. Personally he thought it better the children should not know of the sectarian differences. To say it was impossible to get children to attend Sunday school was a lamentable confession of weakness on the part of those who were always talking about the earnest desire of parents that their children should have denominational teaching. A great number of the Church schools were founded in the first half of the nineteenth century, but without any idea of any particular kind of denominational teaching at all. The Nonconformists were quite willing to accept the teaching of the National Society which was founded in 1811, because it was the same as what was called undenominational teaching to-day. If the Church of England teaching of fifty or sixty years ago had been continued this religious difficulty would not have arisen now; it was the Romanising teaching that people were afraid of. The right hon. Member for Dover had mentioned the case of Eton and other public schools where there were compulsory chapels. Nobody objected to hearing the beautiful Litany of the English Church read; it was the modern additions to it to which people objected. It appeared that denominational teaching was not necessary for the wealthier classes—it was only necessary for the poorer classes. This was like the lady at a Primrose League meeting who declared "that eternal punishment was an excellent doctrine—for the lower classes." By accepting the Amendment of the Member for West Birmingham they would be accentuating the differences between denominations. Could not all Protestants agree to teach their children the real truths in which all believed—the matters concerning which Christians were at peace, and not those points upon which Christians were at war?

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that what seemed to be the chief ground, the chief cause, which made this Bill in its present shape unjust was that it unquestionably proposed to endow a particular form of religious teaching which was not acceptable to a large section of the population and to pay for that religious teaching out of the public rates and taxes. This discussion, which had been exceedingly interesting and informing, must have conveyed to the mind of every hon. Member present the growing conviction that if this Bill could not be so modified as to meet the religious convictions of a considerable section of the English people, the solution advocated by the hon. Member for Burnley would become absolutely inevitable. He believed with his slight knowledge of this country that a proposal of the Government to put the Bible out of the schools would come to grief. And that was the answer, the only answer to the hon. Member for Burnley, and to the admirable speeches of the hon. Member for North West Ham and the hon. Member for Leicester. But as sure as this Bill was forced through this House in a shape which would leave large sections of the English people suffering under religious grievances, so sure would the day come, and it would be near at hand, when the secular solution of the hon. Member for Burnley would be forced on the country. It was admitted by the supporters of the Government that the

Bill could not be made a success unless it satisfied substantially the religious convictions of all considerable sections of the population. In order to make the Bill, which was drawn in the spirit of compromise, successful for a long period, like the compromise of 1870, it was necessary to satisfy the religious convictions of all sections, and with regard to their conscientious objections the Government must receive the statements of the spokesmen of those communities. It was no use for the President of the Board of Trade or any hon. member below the gangway to say they were unreasonable. They themselves were the best judges, the only judges of whether this Bill pressed on their conscientious convictions or not. If the Bill proposed as it did propose to endow one form of religious teaching at the public expense, it was obvious to everybody that it could not continue to be a solution unless such concessions were made as would ensure that other denominations were upon an equality in this matter. That was the great principle which the Government had to keep in mind and which every Member who desired to keep the Bible in the schools had to keep before him. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition in the speech he had just now made had gone further than any Members on that side in approving Cowper-Temple teaching. He had said that excellent religious teaching was given under the Cowper-Temple clause, and that if he were driven to make a choice between secular education and the general application of the Cowper-Temple clause he would accept the latter. But the position of the Roman Catholics was very different; if they were forced to make a choice they would support the hon. Members for Burnley and Leicester. If he himself were forced to choose between the Cowper-Temple clause and secular education, he would choose the latter, and that was the education which all the Irish Members, and the whole of the community for which they spoke, would choose. He had no desire to make any invidious distinction between his case and that of hon. Members above the gangway; all he wished to point out was that their case was, *a fortiori*, that the Bill in its present shape would weigh more heavily upon them than on the consciences for which the right hon. Gentleman spoke. The right hon. Gentleman had complained only of interference; they complained of actual hostility. Roman Catholic Members said that to force their children into schools where there was simple Bible teaching—Protestant teaching endowed by the State out of rates and taxes paid by Roman Catholics—was not even handed justice. He had heard a good deal said about Australia, Canada, and America, and it had been said that every English speaking community in the world but England had accepted the principle of totally secular schools. That was not accurate. Let him warn hon. Members not to be led into the belief that the thinking people of America and Australia were entirely satisfied. These great causes did not produce their full effect in one generation, nor in two generations. One of the greatest statesmen in Australia had said to him—

> "Mr. Dillon, I am not a man who is very strong in my religious convictions. I cannot say that I belong at present to any church, but I must confess that I view with the utmost alarm and doubt the great experiment that is being tried for the first time in the history of Australia. We are breeding a race with no religious convictions whatever. No nation that I have ever read of has ever continued to exist for any length of time without religious convictions."

That showed that there were men in Australia who were extremely doubtful of the result of the experiment. In New South Wales they had gone back on that system. There was free entry allowed to ministers of all religious denominations, and arrangements were made to give denominational instruction; and there was provision for religious teaching at the public expense of something analogous to the teaching allowed under the Cowper-Temple clause. He found in a great public school in New South Wales a teacher giving a lecture on the Sermon on the Mount. He called that dogmatic teaching; but at any rate it was good and religious teaching. He also went round the great school system of New York, which was magnificent in all its equipment. In the city of New York the system was supposed to be purely secular, but the head of the schools, an Irishman, said they always opened the session with the Lord's Prayer and sang hymns. He was puzzled to know how men could call that purely secular education. If he had his choice he would without hesitation select for Catholic schools the right to have that constant influence of good example of reverence and prayer and religious symbols in preference to the Catechism. Could any man who understood the nature of children put in competition in point of importance for the future of the child the influence, whether of the home or of the school, which went on from hour to hour and almost from moment to moment, against the Catechism? In conclusion let him allude once more to the most powerful speech delivered by the hon. Member for Leicester. In a peroration full of eloquence the hon. Gentleman had referred to the influence of parents compared with the influence of the school, and had said it was a melancholy state of things that parents were encouraged by the present system to leave the religious education of their children to the schools and to cultivate the idea that they were safe in abandoning the children to the influence of the school. He heard the hon. Member for Leicester a few days ago say that the child had a right to appeal from the parent to the State for protection against the religious teaching of the parent, and Nationalist Members objected at the time; but now to his amazement, the hon. Member for Leicester became the most extravagant champion in this Committee for the rights of the parent against the school and the State in this matter. But the hon. Member for Leicester was a young man, and perhaps he would get wiser when he was older. When the hon. Gentleman spoke of the comparative insignificance of the school in the life of the child, he was ignorant of the experience of mankind. He did not wish to speak lightly of the influence upon the child of a Christian home or of any kind of morally good home, for he had always recognised that there were excellent moral people who had no religious belief at all; but when the hon. Gentleman said that the school and the college through which the child passed had little or no influence upon the future of its moral life he knew very little of the mind of youth. If they banished religion from the schools as they were invited to do by the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley, they would be doing a mighty and momentous thing, and generations might pass before the full results of that proceeding would be brought to light; but he believed they would be inflicting a tremendous injury upon the nation and the race. No nation had ever continued to exist without religious faith. What the soul was to the body, religious faith was to nations and to peoples, and when they killed the religious faith of a people, he believed in his heart and conscience they killed their capacity of life as a nation, and therefore the injury to the nation was enormous. The position of Catholics had been exactly described by the Leader of the Opposition. They would support this Amendment, because it was an improvement on the original Amendment, but they would vote against the original Amendment, because they were against secularism in the schools. He repeated his previous warning, that unless the Bill were so altered as to ease the consciences of a considerable section of people in this country, although they might defeat the Motion for secular education that day, it would come on the morrow as surely as the sunrise.

*MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) said the Committee had a very serious responsibility in dealing with the Amendment before it. Would it not be well if they were to approach each other in a spirit of compromise? He remembered very well, in the year 1901, the hon. Baronet the Member for Oxford University appealed to the then Government to allow him to select nine men from around him, and ten men from the other side of the House, and said he would promise to bring in a Bill in the following year that would go through the House almost without opposition. If they had more of that spirit to-day, they would be very much nearer a settlement. The Bill did not attempt to drive denominational teaching from the schools; and it must have been a disappointment to the President of the Board of Education to find that his efforts in this direction had been so summarily rejected by many. They had to consider how far they could adopt into a really national system, teaching which was desired by many earnest men and good citizens throughout the country. When the teaching of sectarianism was put upon the rates in 1902, it raised a storm of opposition and passive resistance which it was absolutely necessary to allay; but whilst endeavouring to meet the objections which had been made, care ought to be taken that another storm was not raised which would force many Christian men into hostility to this measure. The object of this Bill was to secure the combination of popular control with facilities, and only by adopting that principle could they secure a compromise that would last for many years. By this Amendment to establish a secular system of education the interests of the children and of the country would be jeopardised and irretrievably damaged. They had before them the great question whether there should first be public control, and he held it was their duty as representing the State, in the first instance, to insist upon public control, accompanying the expenditure of public money, to adopt Clause 1, and at the same time avoid making it impossible for religious instruction to be given in the future. The Wesleyan Methodist Church had declared emphatically, by an unanimous vote of its conference, that there should be a public elementary school within reach of every child in which non-sectarian Christian instruction should be given, but they did not necessarily object to alternative denominational teaching being offered in populous places. They should do what they could to prevent the feuds of the past being continued, and therefore he begged in a spirit of earnestness that each section should try to understand the position and views of the other. Roman Catholics had a high claim to sympathy, but they should not forget that there were men of equal earnestness of conviction who had as great a claim upon the Committee. They should try to meet each other in this matter. Character and the highest ideals of conduct were based on religion; therefore he protested against an Amendment which would banish religious teaching from the schools.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said that, as the only Roman Catholic Member of the Opposition present, he wished to say a few words on this Amendment. Catholics were quite willing to pay for their own religion, but they must have Catholic teachers in Catholic schools, and until this was granted they would continue to oppose this Bill to the best of their ability. If the Government granted this concession to Catholics, of course they should grant it to the Church of England as well. From a Catholic point of view it appeared to him that the Bill was most unjust to the poor, and almost all Catholics were poor people. Those who could afford to pay a few shillings per week for the education of their children could nearly always find some school where they could get their own religion taught, but the poor man was compelled to send his child to school, and if he wished to have any religious instruction at all——

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is entering upon Second Reading considerations. The discussion now is between what this Bill provides and the secular solution.

MR. HUNT said the case under the Bill would be bad enough if the Government had built all the schools. Millions of money had been spent upon denominational schools and they were really saying to the great majority of the people that they would be compelled to pay rates and taxes——

*THE CHAIRMAN: These observations might be relevant on Clause 4, but they are not relevant to this Amendment.

MR. HUNT said that as Clause 4 was mentioned by the last speaker on the front Government Bench, perhaps he would be allowed to remark that Clause 4——

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have to warn the hon. Member that his remarks are irrelevant.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) moved to report progress.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that the hon. Member for Ludlow had not given way, and as he was not told to discontinue his speech he thought he was in order in proceeding.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I did not call upon the hon. Member to discontinue his speech, but he sat down and did not resume, and so I called upon the hon. Member for Glamorganshire.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Samuel Evans*)—put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

DRIFT-NET FISHING (SCOTLAND).

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) rose to move a Resolution expressing the opinion that drift-net fishing should not be prohibited in the Forth and other rivers in Scotland where fishing by net and coble was not possible or practicable. He said the river Forth was one of the most important in the whole of Scotland. Rising north of Ben Lomond, it continued its course 120 miles east to the German Ocean. The portion of the Forth to which he would refer was that between Alloa, the principal town of Clackmannan, and the Royal Burgh of Culross, which was represented by the Prime Minister in this House. Twenty years ago, when he first had the honour of being a Member of the House, it would have been unnecessary to move this Resolution, because at that time drift netting was legal not only on the rivers Tay and Forth, but on many other rivers in Scotland. On May 28th, 1900, the House of Lords, in a case which was brought before them, unanimously reversed a decision of the Court of Session, which had unanimously decided that fishing by drift net was legal. The House of Lords declared this method of fishing to be an obstruction or an "engine" which prevented the free access of fish up the river. He might say that the policy of the law had always been that there should be as far as possible a free run of salmon from the sea up the rivers, and in order to give the upper proprietors a chance of getting some salmon netting in either sea or river was not allowed from six o'clock on Saturday night to six o'clock on Monday morning—a clear space of thirty-six hours for the fish to run up. No one was entitled to put an obstruction in a river which would prevent the salmon from getting free access to the upper waters. He quite agreed with that policy, but his contention was that a drift net was not in the nature of a fixed engine. Up to May, 1900, drift-net fishing was the recognised mode of fishing. When he stated that at Alloa at low water there was a tide of fifteen feet, and that the spring tide went up to twenty-two feet, it would be admitted that the Forth there could hardly be called a river at all. It was, in fact, the estuary of the Forth, and he should like to ask the Secretary for Scotland where the estuary began, because, as a matter of fact, drift netting was perfectly legal in the open sea. The decision of the House of Lords in regard to a case on the Tay was to the effect that drift-net fishing, which was only carried on for something like three or four hours out of the twenty-four hours per day, was in the nature of a fixed engine. It was declared to be an illegal mode of fishing. The Forth Fisheries Board did not, after the decision in the House of Lords, at once stop fishing by means of drift nets in the estuary of the Forth, but lately they had been putting the law in force. He was not here to say that they were wrong, the law being what it was, but he asked the House to say that drift-net fishing ought not to be illegal where no other means of fishing could possibly be carried on. He understood that the Royal Burgh of Stirling did not want any alteration in the law at all. That burgh wished drift-net fishing still to be prohibited. On the other hand, the Royal Burgh of Culross and Kincardine on Forth strongly supported the Motion he had now the honour to submit to the House. He was sorry that he had not been able to get very accurate information as to the loss which the fishermen had sustained since the prohibition of fishing by drift net. At Alloa thirty boats carried on this method of fishing up to the time the Forth Fisheries Board put the law into force, and at present there were only seven. Each boat employed a couple of men, and he was told that the average earnings were something like £50 while the drift-net fishing was going on. Since then the average value of the fish taken by the seven boats was only £25 per boat. That meant that forty-six men had been thrown out of employment, and that the loss in the shape of fish was something like £1,200. While Stirling and Culross held different views on this matter, there was in the places on the opposite side of the river in Stirlingshire and Linlithgowshire a strong feeling on the part of the fishermen that it was unfair that they should be deprived of the one means by which they got their livelihood. They thought that the right of drift net fishing should be restored to them. The Forth from Alloa downwards to the Forth Bridge varied in width from 400 yards to something over three miles. It was a public, tidal, navigable river, and he should like to ask how it could be that a drift net 120 yards in length, when put into such a river, could be called a fixed engine. Of course, the net had to be lifted when steamers were passing. Sometimes the nets drifted from Alloa to Kincardine-on-Forth, a distance of three miles. They went with the wind and tide, and although they extended 120 yards across the river originally, in the course of an hour, or an hour and a half, very often they did not extend to half their width. His contention was that this was the only practicable mode of fishing in the river Forth. He had referred in the Resolution to fishing by net and coble. It was carried on by sweeping the net, and was a much more effective way of catching salmon than the drift net, but on the Forth, which was of great width, it was not possible, owing to the muddy nature of the banks, to fish with a sweep net. There was practically no other mode of fishing for salmon from Alloa to the Forth Bridge, a distance of fifteen miles, except by the drift net. The fishermen on the Forth were not parties to the action which was decided by the House of Lords, but, of course, they were bound by the law as it had been laid down. He had tried to ascertain from the Scottish Fisheries Board how the order in regard to the Forth had come to be promulgated, and the chairman of theBoard had informed him that so far as the salmon fisheries were concerned the Scottish Fisheries Board had nothing to do with them. The chairman referred him to the Office of Woods and Forests, and that office referred him to Mr. Walsh. On asking information as to the number of fish caught, Mr. Walsh wrote that there were no statistics, and that he could give him no sort of information as to the quantity of fish taken in the Forth before the prohibition of drift-net fishing, or after it had ceased to exist. But Mr. Walsh sent out a memorandum to every Scottish Member except himself against the Resolution which he had the honour of moving. He thought Mr. Walsh would have been better advised if he had done him the honour of sending him a copy of the memorandum, so that he might have known what he had to answer. The fishermen at Bo'ness and Grangemouth were unanimous in saying that the only way in which they could catch salmon in the estuary of the Forth was by the drift net. He brought this question before the House because he felt deeply that these men had a great hardship, had been deprived of considerable sums of money, and of employment for many months in the year. He was quite willing that the fishing with the sweep net should be continued wherever possible, but the prohibition of the use of the drift net deprived the public of a large portion of the salmon which would otherwise be caught. It might be said that the House of Lords had unanimously reversed the decision of the Court of Session. Only two years ago the House of Lords by a majority reversed the unanimous decision of the Court of Session in reference to the union of the Presbyterian Churches, and last year the Churches Disputes Act was passed, which had in some sense done away with the bitterness caused in Scotland by the decision of the House of Lords; and if the Resolution which he now moved, and which he hoped would be adopted by the House, was passed it would have a good effect on the Scottish people, who did not like to see the decisions of their own Courts overturned by the House of Lords. He begged to move.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said that he very cordially supported the Resolution, which was fully justified by the evidence received from the constituencies affected and by his own knowledge of the subject. He thought that perhaps too much had been made of the plea *ad misericordiam* by his hon. friend, if he might say so with all respect. He believed that there was a clear claim of right to use the drift net. He had had some experience of fishing methods, not only in this country, but in other parts of the world. He had had among other multifarious duties to administer the fisheries in the estuaries of the Irrawaddy, and he found exactly the same kind of quarrel between the fishermen of the upper and the lower reaches. The fishermen in the upper reaches invariably tried to find some fault with the methods of fishing in the lower reaches, especially if they had to pay high rents. But if he had said in determining a dispute between the lower and the upper fishermen that the drift-net fishing was improper, he would have been scoffed at. It was just the same old story on the Forth. The upper fishermen were paying high rents to the landlords, and they said that if the drift-net below could only be abolished the whole river would be open to them—a monopoly—and they could then pay the high rents the landlords demanded. Fishermen and landlords were thus united in the desire to abolish the drift-net on the lower tidal reaches. The case for the drift-net fishing was threefold. First, the drift net was in no sense a fixed engine or obstruction; secondly, drift-net fishing for the last thirty or forty years had been tacitly admitted in Scottish estuaries until the decision of the House of Lords in 1900; thirdly, in the lower reaches of the Forth it was absolutely impracticable to employ the sweep-net method of fishing. With the sweep net one end of the net was taken out in the boat and the other end was held by a man on the shore and the net was swept round in a curve, the man on shore marching forward till he met the boat. But if that method were attempted on the Forth, where the banks were soft and slimy, the man on shore would soon be up to his neck in mud, so that that method of fishing was impossible. The only way to catch the fish in these reaches of the Forth was by the drift net, which was a hundred or a hundred and fifty yards in length, and twelve to fifteen feet deep, with a thick rope to keep the net perpendicular when in motion in the water. In fact it was a method of actually catching the fish, whereas the essence of a fixed engine was that the fish were driven into a trap or bag net, or on to hooks, and lay there until the fishermen came to take them off. At the town of Grangemouth the river was two miles broad and at a low tide there were thirty feet of water. A drift net occupied at most only 150 yards out of 3,500 yards, and left below it a depth of water of twenty feet, and the mesh was ten inches and thus only caught large fish. How could that possibly be described as an obstruction? Drift-net fishing according to Lord Westbury was very similar to cast-net fishing. Now he defied anyone to say that the cast-net fishing was an obstruction. In his constituency there were 400 or 500 men dependent on these fishings during the summer months, and the decision of the House of Lords had inflicted great hardship upon them. If the House affirmed the Resolution the effect would be to relieve several hundreds of unemployed men without a single penny of expenditure from the Exchequer. It would be a great boon if the British Government, like the Government in India, assumed the position of plenary proprietor of all fisheries, and nationalised all fisheries in this country and administered them as trustee for the nation.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House, while recognising that no fixed net or engine should be placed in the River Forth or other rivers of Scotland, expresses its opinion that drift-net fishing should not be prohibited where fishing by net and coble is not possible or practicable."—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lincolnshire, Horncastle) said he had listened with some interest to the speeches of both the proposer and seconder of this Resolution in order to find out on what grounds they justified the alteration of the law in order to abolish the limitations in regard to drift-net fishing. It appeared to him that they used two arguments in favour of allowing this form of fishing. First of all they said that in their constituencies there were a certain number of people who were thrown out of employment through its prohibition and because the law stood as it did at the present moment. Their second argument was that salmon, being an important part of the food of the people, it was important that the fish should be caught in order to provide the people with food. In reference to the first contention, he would, in the first instance, like to have some information. The two hon. Members were no doubt perfectly right to express the views of their constituents who objected to a state of things under which a certain number of them could not work these drift nets as in the past. He thought the hon. Member who moved the Resolution said that, in consequence of the present state of the law, thirty nets could not be worked.

MR. EUGENE WASON said he only gave that figure as applying to one place —Alloa.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY said he did not understand that the figure only applied to one place, and was glad to be corrected. The hon. Member who seconded said that some 200 or 300 people were thrown out of employment, but he was a little doubtful whether that was of such importance as hon. Members might be led to believe, and indeed he was a little doubtful upon the whole subject of the number of men who were thrown out of employment through not being allowed to use drift nets.

MR. SMEATON said he knew as a fact that there were between 400 or 500 men dependent in the summer upon this drift net fishing.

*MR. EUGENE WASON said that the Provost of Alloa, who was politically of the same way of thinking as the noble Lord, said that some 400 men were thrown out of employment.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY said he was willing to accept the statement that there were in each of these places 400 men thrown out of employment. It was the fact, however, that the men employed in drift-net fishing were so employed at a period of the year when other employment was most easily obtainable. From what he had heard it appeared that these drift nets were used in the River Forth and other rivers almost invariably between the middle of July and the end of August, so that the drift-net fishing only lasted for a month or six weeks. Therefore it would be seen that in upholding the law they were not depriving men of regular and permanent employment. With all due respect to the hon. Members who had moved and seconded this Resolution, he would point out that these men were thrown out of employment just at the time of the hay and the corn harvests in Scotland, and could probably find work as good as the employment at the drift nets. The hon. Members had omitted to mention the point that there was a responsible board which looked after the fishing in the River Forth in the best possible manner with a view to seeing that the number of salmon should not be decreased and protecting the interests of a large number of men employed in the fishing industry. This body was the Forth District Fishery Board, and from communications which he had had from them he gathered that they were absolutely opposed to any alteration of the law which would allow the use of drift nets in the estuary of the River Forth.

*MR. EUGENE WASON inquired who were the members of the Forth Fishery Board. Could the noble Lord give their names to the House ?

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY said he could not give their names, but they were elected by the upper and lower proprietors on the banks of the river, and these people were naturally anxious to preserve the river in the best possible condition for salmon, so that it should be as prolific and profitable as possible.

*MR. EUGENE WASON: For themselves.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY said it might be for themselves, but they paid rates and taxes and they preserved the river in a state which gave work to fishermen. What he, however, was concerned to point out was that the Forth Fishery Board, who were largely interested in the river, were in favour of maintaining the law as it stood at present under which fishing by means of these drift nets was illegal. The hon. Member who seconded the Motion had made a considerable point in regard to the regulation of fisheries in the East and had quoted cases. He was afraid he could not go into these matters as he was not acquainted with fishing in India and other places in the world, although he had had a little experience of fishing in these islands. The crux of the whole question was, as the hon. Member had pointed out, whether drift-net fishing was an illegal thing under the law of Scotland as it was understood. The law of Scotland said that there were two ways of taking salmon. One was by rod and line and the other was by net and coble, and the whole question was whether taking fish by means of a drift net came within the definition of taking them by net and coble. He knew that there had been decisions on this point and that cases had been tried before the court of session, who had held that this kind of fishing was illegal. The decision of the House of Lords was that this fishing by net and coble was fishing by means of a fixed engine, and if hon. Members quarrelled with that and said that it was not a fixed engine, he would point out that, as he understood the law with regard to net fishing in Scotland, it was that the fish should be taken by the act of the fisherman, and that the fish should be pulled up by the fisherman working the net, but that the net should not be so placed as to get the fish to entangle themselves and so to speak catch themselves. When he had been fishing with rod and line he had found it very difficult if not impossible to get the fish to catch themselves. Of course he had known gentlemen who said that when they were pulling a hook out of the water, they had caught a fish which had just jumped out of the water, but luck of that kind had not come his way, and if it had he should as a sportsman under the circumstances have felt inclined to return the fish to the water. In the case of drift net fishing the fish was caught by getting entangled in the net, and when the corks at the top of the net began to bob the fisherman proceeded to carry out the capture by means of the gaff or some other means. That had been held by the House of Lords to be an illegal method of killing fish, but they left aside the question of whether a drift net was an illegal method of fishing. He knew that hon. Members opposite looked upon the drift net as a perfectly legal appliance and not a fixed engine, and they pointed out that it was impossible for the drift net to prevent fish from going up the river. He, however, took a different view of that question. He believed that where drift nets were employed upon a river they prevented hundreds of thousands of fish from ascending that river. He had not the actual figures with him as to how drift net fishing had affected different rivers, but he was sure that with regard to the river Tay the statistics would show that after the licences in regard to drift net fishing were withdrawn more fish ascended the river and more fish had been caught. He was willing to admit that the Resolution of the hon. Member for Clackmannan and Kinross was, to a certain extent, drawn in reasonable terms, but if once they allowed drift net fishing he feared they would open the door to the use of drift nets to a very large extent. He was sorry for the constituents of the hon. Members who could not fish for six weeks in the year, but it was not a question of one drift net but of dozens, and if that were allowed the whole of the river would be choked and no live fish would be able to come up or down. The whole thing came down to this, that although a small proportion of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom might be thrown out of employment which they could get elsewhere, an industry valuable to the landowners and also to the ratepayers and taxpayers was being preserved. He was perfectly certain that if drift nets were allowed in our rivers there would be an enormous decrease in the number of fish. Since it had been abolished he thought it would be found that the "takes" in rivers, notably the Tay, had enormously increased. The fact that a certain number of men were deprived of employment should not he thought operate on the minds of hon. Members in order to induce them to alter a beneficial law, in view of the importance of preserving the fish in our rivers and the supply of salmon for the use of the people of this country. On these grounds he begged to move to amend the Resolution by leaving out all the words after "House" in order to insert "is of opinion that no alteration of the law as to drift net fishing is desirable."

*MR. SPEAKER pointed out that the Amendment was really a negative of the Motion and therefore need not be put.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs) said that the unfortunate thing about the decision which had been arrived at in this matter was that it would affect all the rivers in Scotland. He had no knowledge about the Forth or the Tay, but he had some knowledge of the Solway, with regard to which the judgment had been made to run. The Solway was half English and half Scotch and the fisheries in it were regulated by many Acts of Parliament. It was of interest to recall that under the Statute Law Revision Act these Acts in regard to the salmon fisheries of Scotland and the Solway fisheries had been imposed and continued during the last four or five centuries. If the Acts of Parliament and the cases in reference to them were collected they would make a very large volume. In the Solway the net which was used was called a whammel, and those who used it were called whammellers, and the process they used whammelling. No one who knew how the tide ran in the Solway would even dream of saying that the drift net there was a fixed engine. In regard to the Solway, Reports had been presented to Parliament of a most interesting character and some quotations were made in them from the works of Sir Walter Scott in regard to fishing rights. A Royal Commission made a recommendation which had never been carried out that there should be created a Solway District Board of Conservators containing representatives of the existing Fishery Board, representatives of the county council, of the holders of licences which had been granted by that Board, and of those interested in private rights in salmon fishing. Another suggestion was that this Board should be allowed to borrow money from the Public Works Commissioners, he thought £40,000 was the sum suggested; but these suggestions, like many others, were not carried out, in consequence of the failure of the Treasury to find the money. The Commission recommended that the Board should give licences to fishermen to whammel in a certain area, and should have power to deal with the size of the net. There was a general feeling that that solution was a fair one, and people in that part of the world had been waiting for the Government to carry out these recommendations. Then there came along the judgment of the House of Lords to frighten those who had interests on the Solway, because it might apply to that river. The result of it was that no licences for whammelling had been issued during the last six years, and the fishermen of Annan had been deprived of their living. In the port of Annan alone there were no fewer than 600 persons dependent upon this industry, and 384 people carrying it on. Licences had, however, been granted in Scottish rivers other than the Forth, the Tay, and the Solway. The House of Lords in Scotland was not a very popular body at present. That did not arise only over the Church case, but in other respects, and though the people of Scotland felt that the judgments of the House of Lords might be good law, still they preferred the law as enunciated by their own judges. The decision of the House of Lords in this matter had not operated justly, and he should prefer the decision of the present Lord Chancellor whom he had the honour to succeed in the representation of Dumfries to that of his predecessor. The present Lord Chancellor was indeed the chief authority on this question of drift net fishing, and was the chief witness before the Royal Commission in favour of the whammellers. He denied that the supply of salmon had diminished during the years that whammelling was carried on in the Solway. On the contrary, since it had been stopped by the refusal of licences, the supply of salmon had fallen off, so that the decrease of salmon was not due to drift net fishing. If drift net fishing was to be stopped why should not these men be paid compensation? Why was it that only the rich men obtained compensation? These men had been carrying on this business for thirty-five years under the law; they had bought boats and tackle and spent thousands of pounds, and if they were deprived of their livelihood they ought to be compensated. They did not, however, want to be compensated, but to be permitted to earn their living. He was present at a conference called together by the Board of Crown Fisheries, and the Chairman of that Board stated that it was the view of the Government of the day that some consideration should be given to the whammellers in regard to the fisheries, and that a solution should be sought for. If there were to be restrictions they should not be in the private interest of the landlord or owner of fixed nets, but in the public interest. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland to carry out the recommendations of the Commission. There was no need for any further investigations. The matter had been thoroughly thrashed out, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would soon introduce legislation and do an act of justice to brave, industrious and God-fearing men.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said he represented no particular interest in this matter. In his constituency he did not believe there was a single fisherman, because he did not think there was a single fish. He desired to say a word in the interest of the salmon, and from the point of view of fish preservation. This was a Motion to call attention to the prohibition of drift-net fishing. That prohibition was not due to any action of the authorities. Drift-net fishing was prohibited because of the action of private proprietors on the banks of the rivers. The Fisheries Board of Scotland had no power to institute prosecutions. Drift net fishing was not an offence against the statute law, but against the common law of the land. The law of Scotland was perfectly clear upon the subject. It recognised that in the rivers and estuaries there were, roughly speaking, three ways by which salmon might be taken. Salmon might, under certain special charters from the Crown, be taken by creel. The other ways were rod and line and netting from cobles. The latter system had been endeavoured to be extended as widely as possible by those who had the opportunity of extending it. It consisted of men going out from the shore and dropping a sort of trawl net and returning to the spot from whence they started. The net formed a sort of bag and was drawn in short and the fish landed. From the point of view of the salmon the advantage of this method of fishing was that, in the first place, it offered only a limited obstruction to the passage of the fish up the river, and, in the second place, all fish were brought to the bank alive; and the undersized fish, smelt, and other unclean fish could be put back. Then there was the drift net, which hung, a wall of net, across the river. It was set at low water and on the average remained in position an hour. It was all very well to say that it did not constitute a permanent barrier and was only there for a few hours a day, but the hon. Member when he said that forgot to add that it was exactly at slack water that the greatest number of fish run. It was exactly at that time that the net was put into position, and it was exactly then that the damage was done, because if a fish coming up was caught by the gills and hung there it was gradually drowned. The drift net caught every fish that happened to be coming up the river at that height, and inasmuch as all the fish came up about fifteen feet under water it caught them all, and once a fish was caught it was impossible to extricate it from the net sufficiently soon to return it to the water alive. It was worth observing that this method of fishing came into being in 1879. The first case decided was not decided on evidence but upon what was called a stated case. Each side put in its statement, and the judge, having compared them, gave his decision. That decision was always regarded with suspicion by many lawyers in Scotland. Other cases followed in which the judges decided that they were ruled by that decision. In the case of 1897 the judges again ruled that they were governed by that decision, but in that case the evidence was reviewed by the House of Lords, who decided that drift nets were illegal, not merely because they were fixed engines, but because they created an obstruction to the run of fish up river. That ruling was carried into effect on the River Tay, but not at once on the Forth. Warnings were given to the fishermen on the Forth. They were told what the effect would be if they continued the practice, and eventually after two years, when they declined to abandon the system, the prohibition was put into force. He did not think anyone could say that there had been any hasty action to coerce the fishermen. When they came to the question whether or not this kind of fishing should be declared illegal, they were face to face with very much the same consideration. But they had to consider why it was declared illegal. It was declared illegal because it was an obstruction to the passage of the fish up the river to spawn, in obedience to natural laws. If they obstructed the free passage of the fish in this way, they were bound in the long run to injure the supply. If hon. Members who were interested in the subject would read the expert evidence, they would at once realise that this was not an opinion which he was putting forward on his own authority; it represented the balance of expert evidence given before the Royal Commission on salmon fishing in 1902. It seemed to him somewhat extraordinary that hon. Members who had spoken upon this question had not devoted any portion of their speeches to an analysis of the Report of that Commission, which declared that in order to safeguard the fair distribution of the fish, and secure an adequate stock, it was absolutely necessary that the fish should have a free passage up the river to spawn.

That Report went even further, and recommended that drift-net fishing should be made a statutory offence. In the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, introduced in 1905——

MR. EUGENE WASON: I do not think any such Bill was introduced.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON said it must have been introduced in another place.

MR. EUGENE WASON: I have also made inquiries in another place, and I find that no such Bill was introduced there.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON said it must have been on the stocks, but the point was not really of much importance. He wished to say a word or two in regard to the special pleading which had been brought forward on this occasion. He fully appreciated the tone in which hon. Members had made their remarks, but they had founded their case upon the argument of prescription, which in effect meant that a certain course had been pursued for a long time, and that consequently it was not advisable to change it. It was certain that prescription could not sanction an illegal method of fishing, and the argument that it was a hardship to cut down the livelihood of certain men who practised this method must give way to the general interests of the community. He earnestly hoped the Resolution would not be accepted by the House.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland) said the law seemed to be exercised in favour of the man who fished for pleasure and sport and against the man who fished to earn his livelihood. A fisherman was prevented from catching salmon at the mouth of a river after the end of August, but further up the river a man was allowed to ply his rod till the end of October. In the town he represented a fisherman had to pay £5 for his licence and buy a full equipment of nets, which might be destroyed by a passing steamer the first night they were put into the water. No compensation would be paid, and he contended that as these men were poor they had a right to receive more consideration than they got under the present law. If the law could give these men greater facilities for pursuing their calling it would do no harm to anyone, because everyone knew that a drift net was not a fixed engine. The argument of the hon. Member for the Horncastle Division and others who opposed this Motion seemed to be that so long as plenty of fish were left in the river for them to enjoy some sport at their leisure it did not matter what obstacles were placed in the way of these poor men earning their livelihood. His hon. friend's objections as to the cruelty of this method and its illegality were too finely drawn altogether, and were brought forward in order to secure a plentiful supply of fish at a certain time of the year for sport and pleasure.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY said the whole point of his argument was that if they permitted drift net fishing in the estuaries of the river, the fish could not get up the river to spawn.

MR. SUMMERBELL said if it was only a question of permitting the fish to spawn, why did the noble Lord not ask for a change which would apply equally to the man who fished with a rod and line and the fisherman who used nets?

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire) said this interesting debate had travelled over a somewhat extensive field. He was very glad that his hon. friend had had an opportunity of bringing this matter before the House, but he was sorry that they had not had an opportunity of considering in a more complete fashion what could hardly be considered in so fragmentary a way. He found himself in the unusual position of not entirely agreeing with his hon. friend in the definite proposition which he had made for the acceptance of the House, in the sense that he could not endorse the Motion or accept it on behalf of the Government. The subject was one of considerable importance, and the hon. Members who had spoken had stated the case with moderation and accuracy. He could well understand his hon. friend's desire to call the attention of the House to the question. No one would desire to minimise the hardship caused by the loss of employment which the cessation of this mode of fishing had caused in various parts of the country. It seemed to him that there was also some hardship in the fact that the period during which drift-net fishing had been allowed might be described as an interlude. Drift net fishing was not permitted till about 1870, when it was introduced with success and profit to those engaged in it. It was in some sense a decision of the Court of Session which, if it did not encourage it, led to its development. This had been stopped by a judgment of the House of Lords, which had been acquiesced in by the authorities in the river Tay and elsewhere. The authorities of the river Forth had been properly deliberate in enforcing the law, but were now taking steps to enforce it. He would put aside for the purposes of the debate the question as it affected the Solway, not because of any want of sympathy, but because the Solway case was not on the same level as the others and was more complicated. He was not going to argue the point whether drift-net fishing was or was not a destructive or profitable method of fishing, but he thought that those who argued that it was not a destructive method destroyed their case, because if it were not destructive and profitable, he did not suppose that they should now be engaged in this debate. The matter went much further than the case of the fishermen who were out of employment. The statute book had a great deal of legislation upon it in regard to the salmon fisheries. Much of that legislation arose—in fact all of it—through conflicting interests. He did not conceive that they were here in any except the public interest. Though incidentally the protection afforded to salmon brought profit and rent to this or that man, or to this or the other class, the theory of the law was that the sea was the place to kill salmon, talking broadly, and that while in a river the fish ought to be protected in the public interest. It would be out of place to complicate the discussion by raising such points, but he only mentioned this point to emphasise the fact that what the Motion really asked the Government to do was to alter the present policy in regard to salmon fishing in Scotland. The views of the late Government on the subject were to be found in the Bill they introduced in the House of Lords last session, but did not pass, in which drift-net fishing was included among the offences under the Bill. He should like to say on behalf of the present Government that they were in no way fettered by the proposals of the late Government, and that they approached the question with an entirely open mind. A Commission presided over by the present Secretary for the Colonies had gone into the whole question of salmon fishing in Scotland, and he would ask his hon. friend and the House to suspend their judgment on it. The Government regarded as an inheritance the consideration of the work, and the Report of that Commission. As soon as time permitted they would take it into consideration, and he could promise his hon. friend that, whatever form any Bill brought forward dealing with the salmon fisheries of Scotland might take, there would be ample opportunity for deliberating upon and discussing the question. He thought that was the wisest course for them to take on the present occasion. He would not elaborate the reasons for it; he thought they were on the surface, and must be apparent to everyone. The important question discussed to-night was only part of a still larger question, and it would obviously be impossible for the Government to legislate on so small a portion, important though it might be. When the Government arrived at a decision on the subject they would take the earliest opportunity of laying it before the House.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said the debate had been confined to the Forth and the Solway. The latter reminded him that one of his ancestors, Margaret Wilson, was tied to a stake and thus drowned by the rising tide for her religous convictions. He could point out many famous salmon rivers in the Highlands. The laws as to fishing had been made purely in the interest of a class to enable the landlords to get higher rents. So-called sportsmen had been the curse of Highlands. Where they came in the population decreased, and those who remained were afflicted with poverty and want. In the town of Alloa, it was said, there were 400 fishermen out of employment. That represented 2,000 persons, allowing five to a family, all on account of the decision of the House of Lords. It was impossible to say how many unemployed there were in Culross and Kinkardine. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman, the Secretary for Scotland, for the statement he had made. He believed the right hon. Gentleman desired to do what was right.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland) said he quite agreed with his hon. friend the Member for Ross and Cromarty, that on a question of this sort the people of the Highlands should be considered. The Highlands had undoubtedly been ruined in the attempt to use them for sporting purposes only. [Ironical laughter.] It was all very well for hon. Gentlemen to laugh, but he maintained that the best use to which a country could be put was to support its native population, and not to sporting purposes. If people were driven out of the counties bordering the estuary of the Forth by this decision of the House of Lords, the unemployed question would become more acute than it was at present. What he wanted to know was on what side of the fence the Secretary for Scotland was going to sit. Was he going to sit with the proprietors or with the public? They were entitled to know the position taken up by this democratic Government. It was true that they could not pass a Bill that night, but they could express an opinion which might be embodied in a Bill next year. The Resolution was an exceedingly moderate one. [AN HON. MEMBER: Too moderate] It only asked that the use of the drift net might be allowed when fishing by net and coble was impracticable. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would allow them to pass this moderate Resolution which was in the interests of the people. After all, what were salmon for, if they were not to be caught? Nobody objected to their being caught except the hon. Gentleman for Lanarkshire, who said they ought to be protected. But the hon. Gentleman ought to know enough of fishing to know that if too many fish were allowed to go up river they got diseased. It was necessary, therefore, in the interests of the fish themselves that many of them should be caught. There were thousands of men employed in this dangerous occupation, and the House ought to consider their interests. Besides which we wanted the fish as food for the people. He hoped his hon. friend would go to a division on the matter, in which case they would have done something, for they would have instructed this democratic Government at least as to one clause which they should put into their Fisheries Bill next year.

MR. EUGENE WASON regretted that he could not oblige the hon. Member, but after the conciliatory speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland he begged leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MACEDONIA.

*MR. LYNCH (York, W.R., Ripon), in moving a Motion declaring that further reforms were urgently required in Macedonia, said he found with special pleasure that his first speech in this House, for which he must claim its kind indulgence, would be directed to the important problem of the social peace and advancement of some of the peoples inhabiting the Ottoman Empire. He approached this question, not so much from the point of view of the philanthropist, as from that of the traveller who was conversant with its practical aspects and had breathed the atmosphere in which it had become evolved. It was true that the air of the Balkans was not so familiar to him as that of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, but he felt that the problem with which they had to deal in the one case was much the same as the problem in the other. In fact the case of Macedonia could only be solved by similar methods to those which should be applied to some of the provinces of Asiatic Turkey where people of different race and creed were living side by side under Ottoman sway. If there existed any doubt in the minds of hon. Members as to the reality of the suffering of these peoples, or of the wrongs for which they claimed redress, he could assure them that nothing they read or heard of was more pathetic than what the traveller daily saw and heard. His own experience in relation to the Mohammedan states generally was that while the Persian Empire had comparatively stood still Turkey had steadily deteriorated. That was very regrettable to anyone who like himself desired to see a strong and progressive Turkey. The House was probably aware that while the Sultan had contracted certain special and individual obligations to this country in regard to certain provinces of Asiatic Turkey, our own engagements towards the Turkish peoples in Europe under Turkish rule were legally of a collective character, that was to say, they were shared by other Powers. But while that was true we must not forget that it was we who were mainly responsible for the rescission of the treaty of St. Stefano and for handing back large districts of Macedonia to Turkey. Therefore, we had assumed a special responsibility towards these peoples. We had prevented the formation of a big Bulgaria. In acting in that way we were not animated by any jealousy of Bulgaria, but by a fear lest these territorial changes might be merely a cloak for the extension of one of the great military Empires of Europe—an expansion which was the last thing that could be wished in the interests of the peoples of Asiatic or European Turkey. To seek such a solution would be very much like endeavouring to find a remedy for the grievances under which the Nonconformists of this country had suffered so patiently and so long by handing them over in a body to the Pope. He was glad to think that Lord Lansdowne had initiated a policy more in consonance with the responsibilities of this country, which, if strenuously pursued, would be in the best interests of Macedonia and of Europe. The first part of his Motion stated that this House considered that further reforms were urgently required in Macedonia in the interest alike of the Christian and Mohammedan population. Some hon. Members interested in this question might ask why he had limited himself to Macedonia, and why he had not included the remainder of the peoples of European Turkey. He was quite prepared to admit that there would be force in that contention. He saw no reason why the peoples of the Adrianople Villayet should not be included in a scheme of reform. But he thought they must allow proper weight to the opinions of the Governments of Russia and Austria-Hungary, that the Macedonian problem should be solved before that of the Villayet of Adrianople was undertaken. Therefore, he had confined his Motion to Macedonia. The time at his disposal would not permit of his giving the House any sufficient account of a country which was certainly by nature one of the richest in Europe, but which contained inhabitants who were, he believed, the poorest on the Continent. Macedonia was a homogeneous geographical unit, with a population of many races professing various creeds, the Bulgars being most numerous, and the Christians far outnumbering the Mussulmans, of whom about a third were Osmanli Turks. The country was infested by agents of the various Balkan States, whose political propaganda sharpened the animosities due to differences of race and creed. He was sure the House would approve of the representations which had recently been made on this subject by our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Greek Government. At the same time he would venture to say that the only effective way of putting an end to the incessant political propaganda carried on was by the institution of real reforms. The Balkan States could not afford to relax their efforts in Macedonia, unless and until they should have been assured that the province was really to be placed on its legs. They knew very well that partition of the province would be almost certain to lead to war. The great statesman Tricoupi tried that in 1891 and signally failed. The Balkan States, therefore, acquiesced in the cry of Macedonia for the Macedonians. But they required from the Powers interested some earnest of such a fortunate consummation. The urgency of the need of reforms was demonstrated in the pages of the recently issued Blue-book. The joint action of Russia and Austria had been attended by very poor results. Indeed, one was inclined to doubt whether those Powers ever intended reforms. Murders were frequent, there was no security for life and property, and over large districts security for the lives of the people depended upon that illegitimate organisation called the Committees. During eight months ending August 1905, 785 persons lost their lives by violence. It was true that many of those outrages were due to bands of men fighting one with another; but there could be little doubt that the authorities in Macedonia, like the Russian authorities in recent occurrences in the Caucasus, had at all events shown a very large measure of complacence towards the practice. The authorities in those provinces knew, like the Russian authorities in the Caucasus, that if they could only divide the people and set them by the ears there was far less danger of their own authority being undermined. As a result of this baneful system they had seen the rise of the Committees in Macedonia, and the law of those Committees was in certain districts practically the law of the land. What were the reforms that were most urgently needed? He would like to turn first to the weighty despatch of Lord Lansdowne dated January 11th 1905. In that despatch the British Government laid down the general lines upon which, in their opinion, the reforms should be framed. First, there was to be an immediate reduction of the military forces now maintained by Turkey in Macedonia to the number strictly required for the maintenance of internal order and security, such reduction to be for a definite number of years. At the same time it was proposed by Lord Lansdowne that a collective guarantee should be given by the Powers to the effect that Macedonia should not be invaded by Bulgaria, and he could only therefore assume it should not be invaded by the army of any other Balkan State. Nothing whatever had been done, even up to the present time, towards the realisation of this important reform. He understood that the British Government was about to conclude an arrangement with Turkey under which the Customs dues all over Turkey were to be raised from 8 to 11 per cent. Lord Lansdowne calculated in the despatch he had quoted that the cost of the Turkish military forces in Macedonia amounted to £3,000,000 a year, the number of men employed being 130,000. This cost was saddled on the province, which as a consequence showed a deficit of from £700,000 to £800,000 in Turkish pounds, which were a little less in value than English sovereigns. This deficit corresponded very nearly to the total estimated yield of the additional Customs duties. In connection with the financial Regulation which was the outcome of the Naval demonstration organised last winter against Turkey, the Powers granted to the Porte the right of making up this deficit of £700,000 or £800,000 by drafts on the Customs duties. This was almost tantamount to permitting an increase of the Customs, and he was sorry the British Government had even listened to it on the terms obtained. At least 60 per cent. of the Turkish Customs were levied on British trade. But inasmuch as it had been admitted that the deficit in question should be made up from Customs duties, it became of the utmost importance that this military expenditure should be considerably reduced. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had recently stated that the sum included in the last Budget for Civil Administration amounted to £768,697. Would the right hon. Gentleman inform the House what was the sum allotted in that Budget for military expenditure? The second reform postulated by Lord Lansdowne was the formation of a Commission to consist of delegates of the Powers, and to be invested with executive functions with control over finances and justice. The Regulation to which he had referred as the outcome of the Naval demonstration, and of which at his instance a copy had been presented to Parliament, altered the *status* of the proposed "delegates" on the Commission to that of "advisers," added a Turkish adviser to the board, on which already sat the Ottoman Inspector-General, and also limited the exercise of their functions by the "advisers" to a period of two years. They were not invested with executive functions. They were not given a voice in the administration of justice. Surely this was a very poor result of the Naval demonstration. He trusted that His Majesty's Government would not embark in the future on collective action with the Powers before arriving at a preliminary and binding understanding with them as to the minimum demands to be satisfied by the Porte, and that the demonstration would not be withdrawn before those demands were satisfied. The measures formulated by Lord Lansdowne constituted the minimum of what was necessary to restore order in these provinces. He would mention a condition which, he thought, ought to be added. The boundaries of Macedonia urgently required readjustment, especially on the side of Albania. At present those boundaries were based, not on the principle of sound or convenient administration, but on that of including as many discordant nationalities as possible. Therefore one of the first things to be done to obtain efficient administration was to readjust the boundaries, nor should this be one of the last reforms. Time did not permit him to enter upon the very important question as to what the attitude of His Majesty's Government should be in regard to the pressing of reforms upon the Sultan. He would only say that he thought that in dealing with such a special provincial problem as that of Macedonia, His Majesty's Government were proceeding on sound lines. It was no use dissipating their efforts, as in the past they had no doubt dissipated them, by insisting upon reforms over the whole length and breadth of Turkey. He thought the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had inherited a thoroughly sound policy from his predecessor. They were told the other day by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in another place of the difficulties under which that policy had been evolved. There was at that time the the great question of Morocco, which presented a most delicate international situation; but in the course of that same speech they were happily informed by the Under Secretary that those difficulties had now, to a great extent, been dissipated, and that, in his own words, "their hands were now comparatively free." He expressed the hope that those hands might now be applied to an earnest solution of this problem of Macedonia. This was a problem in which we had contracted special obligations, or, at all events, special moral responsibilities towards the people of that country; and he felt that the interests of this country could never be safely dissociated from the interests of any of the peoples in any sense committed to our charge. He begged to move.

Mr. GOOCH (Bath) said there were two questions pending between this country and the Porte. The first dated back nearly three months ago and related to the *gendarmerie*, the Sultan being asked to increase the very limited powers which they now enjoyed. The second point was that the Sultan was anxious to obtain the consent of this country to the raising of the tariff on foreign goods from 8 to 11 per cent. The House would remember that Lord Lansdowne expressed the opinion last year that this concession could only be granted by this country in return for very substantial reforms or guarantees of reforms on the part of the Sultan. He hoped the Foreign Secretary would be able to assure them that before allowing the Sultan to increase his tariff and thus increase the money at his disposal for maintaining the garrison in Macedonia, the English had done their utmost to see that substantial reforms were not only promised, but actually carried out. He begged to second the Motion.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House considers that further reforms are urgently required in Macedonia in the interest alike of the Christian and Mohammedan population, and is prepared to support His Majesty's Government in taking whatever steps are necessary to secure that end."—(*Mr. Lynch.*)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The hon. Member who moved this Motion has spoken on a subject of which he has great knowledge and great experience, not only commercially, but locally, and I congratulate him on having chosen for his first speech in the House a subject on which he speaks with special authority and special knowledge. I do not demur in the least to the statement that the reforms hitherto achieved have not yet gone far enough, nor do I depreciate in any way the value of the advice he has given us as to what further reforms should be asked for, and, if possible, obtained. So far from demurring to it, I welcome some of the suggestions as to the further reforms which are desirable and which should be kept in view. In this matter of Macedonia our hands are comparatively free, but our action is bound to keep step with that of the other Powers. It is not a matter in which we can act in such a way as to separate ourselves from the other Powers; and I think it would be exceedingly undesirable, however strong our feelings in this House, however clear our views as to the larger measures of reform still required, if we were on our own behalf to sketch out a large programme unless we are sure that it is likely to receive the support of the other Powers; because if we do take a departure of that kind, which is in advance of what the Powers could support, the only result will be to disturb and alarm some of them and to weaken our power of joining with them and to concentrate with them in that which they are prepared to join with us in pressing. It is not because I do not think the reforms he sketched desirable or necessary, but because I want to do as Lord Lansdowne did formerly—to do what he could to get the other Powers to join with him in pressing for what they believed to be practicable, but keeping step with them and not going in advance of them. But something has been done. The hon. Member was right in saying that Lord Lansdowne's policy has had some good results. It is true that there were some things which he outlined and which he was not able to press. He did not press as far as he wished the reduction of the military forces in Macedonia, because in order to do that it would be necessary to guarantee the Turkish frontier of Macedonia against violation. That is a guarantee which might be undertaken by every Power, and it would have to be carried out by other Powers than ourselves; and that depends on the action of other Powers. But something has been done. The hon. Member said that Lord Lansdowne estimated the military expenditure in the vilayets in Macedonia at £3,000,000. This estimate of Lord Lansdowne included the vilayet of Adrianopole, which is not included in the three vilayets under discussion this evening. It is estimated that the expenditure of Lord Lansdowne for the three vilayets would have been £2,200,000. In the Budget drawn up by the Financial Commission, and sanctioned by Imperial Iradé, that expenditure is now reduced to £1,344,600. That is a considerable reduction in the military expenditure for the financial year ending March, 1907. As to reform of the judiciary, Lord Lansdowne found it impossible to press that, but he did find it possible to get the Powers to concentrate on the reform of finance. He rightly considered that the reform of finance underlay all the other reforms; that you could not get everything; and that, if you were obliged to concentrate on one thing, the best thing was the reform of finance. The Financial Commission was introduced shortly before Lord Lansdowne left office. I do not think its powers are large enough. I hope in time those powers will be increased. But it has already done something. It has drawn up a Budget which is, at all events, an intelligible Budget, and I think there is a nearer approach to accuracy in the finances of Macedonia than has been reached before. That is something gained. Then it has also made a step forward by better organisation and better attention to the finances. It estimates that it will be able to increase the revenue by about £60,000 in the year; that about £90,000 more revenue will be devoted to Civil purposes than has been done before; and that £9,000 will be devoted to the improvement of prison accommodation. I do not say that that is a large result, but it is, at any rate, a beginning. In the course of next year the Financial Commission hopes to revise the rates of pay of the Civil administration. Something has been done already to improve the position of the officials, on the effective performance of whose duties really depends the efficiency of the local administration. That is a step in advance, because the irregularity or inadequacy of the pay of the civil functionaries is no doubt one of the great troubles of government in the Turkish Empire, and anything which will make that pay more regular and adequate is a definite step forward towards the improvement of local administration. Then the collection of tithe is no longer made upon the estimated but upon the actual yield of the crops; and that in itself should tend to make the levy of tithes not only more just but more productive. These are small results, but they are steps in the right direction. It took considerable effort to get the Financial Commission even on its present footing; and I think it would be impossible to expect the Powers to join in collective action of a strenuous kind until they have had at least a year's experience of the working of the present Financial Commission. We have already results enough to show that that year's time will not be wasted, but that there will be some improvement in the financial position of Macedonia; and I hope in addition that the reports of the Powers received from each of the delegates that they have on the Financial Commission, founded on their own experience, will enable the Powers to draw up and formulate certain other improvements in the constitution of the Financial Commission, which they can press as reasonable on the Porte, and with hope of their being accepted. That at any rate is some, if not quick progress; and it justifies my hon. friend in saying that the policy which has been pursued was a policy worth carrying out. With regard to the *gendarmerie*, I have not yet a satisfactory answer to give. I am sorry that we have not yet received the reply of the Porte to the request that further powers should be given, or, rather, that the powers of the *gendarmerie* should be recognised as it was understood originally that they would be. It is, no doubt, time that an answer should have been received. But we on our part have naturally been engaged lately in pressing other matters at Constantinople; and it would not have been reasonable that the initiative in pressing for a reply on this point should have rested with us. It is a matter on which all the Powers have joined, and there is no doubt that, if a reply is not received soon, one Power or another will take the initiative. We shall certainly support the request that a favourable reply should be returned to the demand. With regard to the general question, I will only repeat that there is no intention of losing sight of the further objects which Lord Lansdowne had in view. We intend to follow out his policy of not separating ourselves from the other Powers and of acting with them in order to secure what results we can concentrate upon and what results they can approve. Lord Lansdowne, in the despatch which my hon. friend quoted, said—

> "If these Powers are prepared to put forward proposals of the kind I have indicated in this despatch, they may count on the loyal support of His Majesty's Government, and they may rest assured that nothing is further from ou intentions than to cause embarrassment by action which might have the appearance of being antagonistic to theirs."

It is necessary to bear that in mind, because some of these Powers have interests more intimate and more direct in this part of the world than we have. Our policy in this matter is a purely disinterested policy. But to prove that it is disinterested we are bound, when other Powers are sensitive, or are desirous that questions should not be pressed for fear their own interests should be affected, though our interests might be unaffected by them, to pay some regard to their wishes. We shall carry on the policy of Lord Lansdowne as strenuously as we can. We shall carry it on in concert with the other Powers; and I do not in the least deprecate—on the contrary, I think it is perfectly natural—that the House of Commons should express its opinion in favour of that policy, that further reforms are required, and that the support of the House of Commons will be forthcoming, as the support of His Majesty's Government will certainly be forthcoming, in any steps which the other Powers are prepared to join with us in taking to improve the condition of affairs in Macedonia

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, that this House considers that further reforms are urgently required in Macedonia in the interest alike of the Christian and Mohammedan population, and is prepared to support His Majesty's Government in taking whatever steps are necessary to secure that end.—(*Mr. Lynch.*)

GROUND GAME BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Friday.

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 24*th May*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the County of Carnarvon (Southern or Eifion Division), in the room of John Bryn Roberts, esquire (Judge of the County Court of Glamorgan.)—(*Mr. Joseph Pease.*)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Thornton Urban District Gas Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

London United Tramways Bill (King's consent signified); Bill read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

Derby Gas Bill. As Amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Reported, without Amendment. [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill; Kettering Water Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Assurance Company Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

North West London Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND BILL.

Petition of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, for reference to a Select Committee; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.

Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRADE).

Petition from Worcester, for suppression; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Ambleside; Merthyr Mawr; and Salisbury; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of law; from Bedford (two); Condover (two); Corsham (two); Cuckfield; Darton (two); Davington; Heeve; Horfield; Ironville; Minster; and, Nailsea; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (HOURS OF POLL) BILL.

Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUEZ CANAL (COMMERCIAL, No. 4, 1906).

Copy presented, of Returns of Shipping and Tonnage passing through the Suez Canal 1903, 1904, and 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Copy presented, of Amended Prison Rule relating to Prison Officers' Fine Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Phibbs Estate, County Mayo.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there is a large grazing farm called Erreiff on the Phibbs estate, in the parish of Keelogues, near Castlebar, county Mayo, and that surrounding this farm, or in its immediate vicinity, are a number of very poor tenants of uneconomic holdings; and can he say whether any person has been or is in negotiation with the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board as to the purchase of this farm, and, if so, what is the name of such person; and will he see that this farm is purchased either by the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board for the sole benefit of and for distribution amongst the poor tenants in the neighbourhood.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that neither the Estates Commissioners nor the Congested Districts Board have any knowledge of the grazing farm referred to. If an application should be made to one or both of these bodies by any of the persons interested, it will, I have no doubt, receive due consideration.

London Postmen's Pay.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state how many postmen in London have received advance of pay at the age of twenty-five since April 1st, 1905, and how many have received advances since that date under the provision which makes a certain proportion of unestablished service count towards increments.

(*Answered by Mr. Sidney Buxton.*) The numbers are approximately 900 and 1,100, respectively.

Adulterated Brandy.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether foreign spirit made from beetroot and materials other than the grape, and Hamburg potato spirit, are admitted to entry in this country as brandy; whether this constitutes a false trade description under the Merchandise Marks Act; do the Customs authorities refuse to enforce the provisions of that Act as regards brandy; can he explain why rum from other than the sugar cane must be described at import as imitation rum; and is he aware that the courts have recently decided that brandy must be the distillate of the grape, and that this decision has been accepted by the wine and spirit trade.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) It is not the case that spirits made from beetroot and materials other than the grape and Hamburg potato spirit, are admitted to entry in this country as brandy. If such spirits were described as brandy on the

Customs' entry, such description would be a false trade description under the Merchandise Marks Acts. The Customs authorities do not refuse to enforce the provisions of those Acts as regards brandy. Rum is spirit produced from the sugar cane, and, therefore, spirit purporting to be rum, but produced from any other material than the sugar cane, must be described at import as imitation rum. I understand that several cases bearing on the question, what is brandy, have been decided in the metropolitan police courts, but I do not know of any decision of the High Court upon the point. I am not aware that there has been any general acceptance by the wine and spirit trades of the decisions of the police magistrates.

Soldiers and Vaccination.

Mr. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will quote the statutes empowering him to impose the vaccinal test on conscientious objectors seeking enlistment in the Army or applying for employment in the Arsenal.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) A man seeking enlistment in the Army or applying for employment in the Arsenal is asked whether he is willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated; if he declines he is not enlisted or taken on. No statutory authority is required for such a condition.

Captain Huntsman.

Major DUNNE (Walsall): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of Captain Huntsman, of the Army Pay Department; and whether he will state the reasons for this officer being passed over for promotion and suspended from his duties; and whether, in view of the remarks of the Commissioners on the War Stores Commission, full reparation will be made to this officer if any injustice has been done to him.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) My attention has been called to the case of Captain Huntsman. In consequence of evidence given before General Butler's Committee he was, on June 9th, relieved from duty until the Royal Commission should have made its Report. In view of the remarks of the Commissioners, I have given instructions that Captain Huntsman should be permitted to return to duty. He has been continuously on full pay during the whole period.

Slavery in Zanzibar.

Mr. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the number of slaves freed by the courts, under the decree of 1897, in Zanzibar and Pemba, respectively, in each of the years 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905 (in continuation of Africa, No. 6, 1902); also the total of those where emancipation has been voluntarily granted and registered, or labour contracts officially drawn up and recognised by the courts; and further whether he will consider what steps can be taken to put an end to this period of transition, and the existence of slavery in the Protectorate.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The number of slaves freed by the courts, under the decree of 1897, in Zanzibar and Pemba in 1903 is given in Africa, No. 14, 1904, which is the continuation of Africa, No. 6, 1902. The total of those whose emancipation has been voluntarily granted and registered for 1902 and 1903 will be found on page 6 of the same volume. A Report will be called for from His Majesty's agent at Zanzibar, as to whether there are any instances of labour contracts being officially drawn up and recognised by the courts. Details will at the same time be asked for for the years 1904 and 1905.

As the legal *status* of slavery has been abolished by the decree of 1897, which has worked so satisfactorily as will appear by reference to Africa, No. 14, 1904, it does not appear that anything further could be more effective.

Colonial Reports and Maps.

Mr. WALKER (Leicestershire, Melton): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will make an inexpensive start in the direction of facilitating the study of Colonial Reports, by appending to Reports upon Northern and Southern Nigeria the map contained in the Colonial Office list for 1906; and to Reports upon British East Africa, the map contained in the pamphlet upon that Protectorate which has been issued by the Emigrants' Information Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Secretary of State will arrange, if possible, to have the maps in question, or similar maps, appended to the Reports. But it must not be forgotten that many, if not most, of the readers of these Reports are familiar with the geography, and may not appreciate the additional cost which the maps will entail.

Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state how many houses in the Island of Lewis are rated, and how many not rated.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The exact numbers are not available. The 1902 Report on the social condition of the people of Lewis estimates the number of cottars who would not appear on the valuation roll, and therefore not to be rated, at from 900 to 1,000, the remainder are to be found in the valuation roll, and are no doubt rated for local purposes. The same Report gave the number of crofter holdings on the roll as 3,076.

Irish Ordnance Survey.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether there is any objection to the Irish Ordnance Survey being directly under the Department of Agriculture (Ireland), having the Irish Survey headquarters at Dublin; and, if so, whether he can state the objections.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The division of the work of the Ordnance Survey in the manner suggested would be attended with diminished efficiency and increased expense. No change is therefore contemplated in the existing arrangements.

Survey Officers' Travelling Expenses.

MR. FIELD: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can state what has been the charge against the public during the past financial year of Army officers employed in survey duties; and if they can travel in motor cars, and are allowed first class railway fare in lieu.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The Army officers employed on the Ordnance Survey received in the year ended March 31st, 1906, from Vote for Surveys of the United Kingdom:—

	£.	s.	d.
For pay and allowances -	8,000	9	9
For travelling expenses -	976	16	2
Their regimental pay was issued direct from Army Votes and amounted approximately to - -	5,028	0	0

Officers using their own motor vehicles for journeys taken on the public service receive allowances on the scale sanctioned by the Army Council, provided that the cost of ordinary means of conveyance is not exceeded.

Municipal Employees' Holidays.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether municipal borough councils and county councils have power to grant holidays or half-holidays to their employees, by resolution of such councils; and whether the Local Government Board have ever taken any action to deter public elected bodies from exercising such rights.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) It appears to me to be competent for these councils to provide in their agreements with their employees for reasonable holidays or half-holidays being given to them. I am not aware that the Local Government Board have ever taken any action to deter public elected bodies from adopting this course.

Paddington Retail Meat Traders.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Paddington Borough Council have abruptly terminated an arrangement whereby the retail meat traders of Paddington had the protection of the daily inspection of their meat purchases before the same was exposed for sale, so that they are now open to the risk of criminal prosecution, confiscation, and fine, notwithstanding the fact that they have taken all precautions in their power to purchase sound meat; and whether he proposed to take any action in the matter.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a circular letter under date of March 31st, 1906, issued by the Paddington local authority to all meat purveyors in their district, notifying the withdrawal of the protection, which prior to the date of the letter had been accorded meat traders, whereby the latter on submitting carcases of pork for inspection prior to exposure thereof for sale were immune from the institution of criminal proceedings should any carcase so submitted be found affected with tuberculosis; and whether he will make such representations to the Paddington Borough Council for the continuation of the system of inspection.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Perhaps I may be allowed to answer these two Questions together. I have made inquiry and am informed that the Public Health Committee of the borough council have felt themselves obliged to abandon the arrangement referred to by the hon. Members, and to give instructions for the inspection of meat to be carried out strictly in accordance with Section 47 of The Public Health (London) Act, 1891. The arrangement was a tentative one, and I am informed that the results have been disappointing. I think the practice which has been followed by the borough council had advantages, but it was optional with them to determine whether they would continue it, and I have no authority to require them to do so.

Metropolitan Labour Yards.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether any metropolitan boards of guardians were among those with which he recently communicated respecting the closing of their labour yards; if so, will he state the names of those boards; whether before making these communications he had informed himself respecting the state of unemployment in the districts concerned; and whether any of the boards, and, if so, which have closed their labour yards in consequence of his communications.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I do not find that any communication of the kind referred to has been made to boards of guardians in the metropolis.

Bristol Postal Staff.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General when the vacant overseership on the postal staff at Bristol, consequent on the retirement of the chief superintendent on December 13th, 1905, will be filled; will he date the promotion from the date the vacancy occurred; and will he give an assurance that the vacancy will be filled by the promotion of an officer at present borne on the postal establishment.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton*). The staff at Bristol being at present in excess of the requirements of the work, the question of the number of officers the business will warrant is under consideration, and in the meantime the vacant appointment referred to by the hon. Member cannot be filled.

Income-tax Assessments in Ireland.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is the total income-tax paid in Ireland under Schedule A (land and houses), the total assessment value of those lands, and the amount paid under Schedule D (trades and professions) for the year ended March, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The statistics of the income-tax for the year ended March, 1906, are not yet complete. The estimated amounts are as follows:—

	£
Total income-tax paid in Ireland under Schedule A (lands and houses) - -	422,000
Total assessment value of lands and houses (net) -	8,400,000
Income-tax paid under Schedule D (trades and professions exercised by private persons) - -	182,000

Indian Superior Police Service.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether it is in contemplation to discontinue the exchange compensation allowance to members of the Superior Police Service appointed in India in or after the year 1906; and, if so, on what ground the change is based.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Answer is in the affirmative. Exchange compensation allowance was instituted with the view of meeting to some extent the fall in the gold value of salaries paid in rupees which had taken place since such salaries were fixed. In the case of police appointments a new and improved rate of pay has been introduced, which is considered adequate, and it is no longer thought necessary to give compensation based upon a past standard of salaries which has now been abandoned.

Campbell Estate, Carlow.

MR. HAMMOND (Carlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he would cause inquiry to be made with regard to the holding of Patrick Fitzpatrick on the Campbell estate, at Wells, Carlow county, lately sold under the Act of 1903, by which sale Fitzpatrick remains as a sub-tenant under judicial lease, with Mr. Edward Drea as landlord; and would the Commissioners withhold payment of purchase money until this Fitzpatrick case will have been fully investigated by them.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners will, before sanctioning the advance applied for by Edward Drea, make inquiry into the question relating to Fitzpatrick's sub-tenancy.

Irish National Schools.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that over three-fifths of the national schools have an average attendance of less than fifty, he will undertake that teachers of such schools will receive as favourable consideration as those of large schools when their salaries are being revised.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the cases of teachers in schools with an average attendance of less than fifty pupils are most carefully considered when their salaries are being revised in accordance with the rules. The Commissioners are unable to make any further general promise in the matter.

Belfast Police.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if he can state whether the recommendations of the Day Commission regarding the religious constitution of the Belfast police force have been adhered to.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am not aware that any recommendation regarding the religious constitution of the Belfast police force was made by the Commission mentioned.

National School Teachers' Salaries.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Commissioners of Education to deprive principal teachers of national schools from receiving any increase of salary whose average attendance of pupils is under fifty; and, if so, will he say why.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the answer is in the negative. Principal teachers in schools with an average attendance of less than fifty may be promoted to the second grade and advanced to the maximum salary of that grade.

Dublin Police.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force were allowed, when complaints or charges against them were under investigation, to call witnesses and to go into their defence during the period when Mr. Jones was Chief Commissioner; did they actually examine witnesses and make statements or explanations on their own behalf; has this system been departed from since Sir John Ross, of Bladensburg, was appointed Chief Commissioner, and, if so, for what reason: if policemen are now allowed to call witnesses, do they generally avail themselves of the privilege, and, if not, what is the reason for their disinclination to do so; will he state the proportion of the acquittals to the complaints in the Dublin Metropolitan Police while Mr. Jones was Chief Commissioner and the same particulars, so far, during the Chief Commissionership of Sir John Ross, of Bladensburg.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police informs me that there has been no change in the system in force in the time of his predecessor, under which members of the force are permitted to call witnesses and to make statements or explanations in their own defence when complaints are made against them. The Chief Commissioner is not aware that there is any disinclination on the part of accused constables to call witnesses. It would not be in the interests of the public service, or of the discipline of the force, to give the details asked for in the concluding part of the Question.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that discontent exists in the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force at the system under which charges and complaints against the members of the force are investigated in camera, and at the procedure followed at such investigations, and that there is a concensus of opinion in the force that inquiries into such matters should be conducted in public and in the presence of the Press, as in the case of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and by a tribunal similarly constituted to that of the Royal Irish Constabulary for inquiry into charges and complaints, also that depositions should be taken at such inquiries and the defendant allowed to employ counsel as is the practice in the Royal Irish Constabulary; and whether, if he is not prepared to provide for such inquiries, he will say what are the objections of the Dublin Metropolitan Police authorities to the adoption of this course.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have no information to the effect stated in the Question. I have referred the matter to the Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, who informs me that he is not aware that any discontent exists as stated, or that there is any general desire for a departure from the system at present in force in regard to disciplinary investigations. The statutes and regulations governing the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police differ considerably. The men of the Dublin force have the advantage of making a personal statement of their defence to the Chief Commissioner, a course which would not be practicable in the case of the constabulary owing to their wide distribution. The Chief Commissioner believes that the advantages of a personal investigation of their cases by him are thoroughly appreciated by the force generally.

Army Ordnance Department, Dublin.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary of State for War under what circumstances the General Officer Commanding in Ireland refused to forward to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury an appeal from the three storeholders in the Army Ordnance Department at Dublin respecting their altered positions; and can he see his way to allow a committee of civil servants (not military officers) to inquire into the alleged grievances of the late storeholders in Ireland, who have suffered financially through no fault of their own.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Ireland, after careful consideration, decided that as the matter had already been fully represented to and settled by the War Office the petition should not be forwarded to the War Office. Within a few days of the receipt of this petition these three storeholders accepted in writing their re-classification to principal foremen and foremen. I may add that they retain the pension rights to which entitled. It is imperative in the interests of the public service to cut down unnecessary expenditure, and I am not prepared to make any further inquiry into a matter which has already been thoroughly well considered.

Militia Accoutrement.

MR. H. BEAUMONT (Sussex, Eastbourne): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether those Militia battalions not already in possession of them can be immediately supplied with brown leather leggings from the large stock lately handed in by line regiments on the issue of puttees to the latter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Militia battalions now in possession of black leather leggings cannot be supplied with brown leggings until the present stock of the former is exhausted. The reply, therefore, to the Question is in the negative.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Osborne Cadets—Instruction in Navigation.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the teaching of navigation to the cadets at Osborne is controlled by civilians, and that landsmen who have never practised any sort of navigation of the sea are daily teaching the cadets this branch of a naval officer's profession; and whether the Admiralty have sanctioned this method as the one best adapted for imparting the practical knowledge.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Mathematical teaching is given by civilian masters with a view to preparing the cadets for the future instruction in navigation which they will receive from naval officers. It is not, however, the case that the teaching of navigation is undertaken or controlled by civilians, and it would appear that the hon. Member has been misled by the difficulty of drawing a hard and fast line between trigonometry and theoretical navigation.

Osborne Cadets and Engineering.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he has any confirmation of the unanimous Report of a recent Committee presided over by Admiral Sir A. Douglas, and of which the Director of Naval Education, Professor Ewing, was a member, to the effect that a few of the Osborne cadets manifest a disinclination to study engineering subjects, and it is suspected that this has been encouraged by the parents; whether the Admiralty agree with the conclusion of the Committee that the development of such feelings or prejudices must have a deletrious effect on the system of training as a whole; and, if so, what steps do the Admiralty propose to take to eradicate this feeling.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: In reply to the first part of the Question, since the report of the Committee no complaints of this nature have reached the Admiralty. The remainder of the Question accordingly does not arise.

Royal Navy Supplementary Lieutenants.

MR. JOWETT (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if supplementary lieutenants in the Royal Navy are to have a chance to be promoted the same as other lieutenants in the Royal Navy.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The regulations under which these officers entered (which were established by Order in Council June 29th, 1895,) do not provide for promotion above rank of lieutenant on the active list except for distinguished war service.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): May I ask why it is that to-day the Union Jack is not flying over the Admiralty, as well as other public buildings?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. That does not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

The Army Re-organisation.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can conveniently communicate to the House the series of questions which he has put before the Committee appointed to advise the Army Council on the formation of a new Army; whether he can also communicate the series of questions submitted to the Committee by the chairman; and whether the two sets of questions are identical or supplementary to one another.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): I not think that any good purpose would be served by communicating to the House at the present time the series of questions now being put to the Committee to which the hon. and gallant Member alludes. The questions now being submitted by the Chairman are identical with those which I put before the Committee.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: Am I to understand that the questions being put bear upon a scheme formulated by the right hon. Gentleman himself or by the Army Council, or by some irresponsible reformer?

MR. HALDANE: They specifically refer to matters which were outlined when

I addressed the House in presenting the Army Estimates.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Is my right hon. friend aware that in two newspapers long accounts have been published recently of what has got out, and, that being so, does he not think it would be better to make a real publication?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): As it appears that these questions have been communicated to, at least two newspapers, and are moreover in the possession of some hon. Members, would it not be more convenient that the whole House should have the advantage of seeing the documents?

Mr. HALDANE: I certainly do not think so. The House will be furnished with full information when the work is done. It is very inconvenient to make partial statements now. As to what has appeared in the newspapers I know nothing, nor do I know how it got there. I think it is very likely that, like many other things in newspapers, it is inaccurate.

Army Service Corps.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if there are at present ten or eleven companies vacant in the Army Service Corps, and, if so, why are they not filled at once by those officers who have successfully passed the necessary examinations held last November; and if it is intended to keep these companies vacant until the results of the new examinations, just commenced, shall be made known, so that officers now qualified for promotion may be then passed over by others not at present qualified. And further may I ask how it is that on Empire Day the Union Jack is not flying at the War Office?

*Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the Question on the Paper.

Mr. HALDANE: It is not intended to defer the promotions to the vacancies in question until the result of the next examination is known. The delay has been occasioned by necessary references to India and South Africa.

Military Prisoners.

Mr. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the increase in the number of prisoners committed to military prisons at home and abroad (excluding India), as shown on page 8 of [Cd. 2699] the Report on Military Prisons, 1905; and if he will explain this increase, seeing that the number of committals has gone up from 11,414 in 1901, when the average Army strength at home and abroad (excluding India) was 335,910 to 19,461 in 1905, when the average strength was only 188,570.

Mr. HALDANE: The strength given in 1901 included the mobilised reserve and auxiliary forces. In that year the troops in South Africa were on active service and offences committed there were as a rule dealt with by field imprisonment and not by committal to military prisons. No comparison therefore between the figures for 1901 and 1905 can properly be made.

Mr. LEA: I want the right hon. Gentleman to compare the figures with those for eight years ago.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to make a speech.

Mr. LEA put a further Question as to the increase in the number of court martials.

Mr. HALDANE asked for notice.

Chinese Coolies in the Transvaal—Applications for Repatriation.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any of the Chinese indentured labourers in the Transvaal have up to the present applied to be repatriated under the terms of the proclamation recently posted; and, if so, how many.

The SECRETARY to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Mr. Churchill): Lord Selborne has informed us that he will report fully regarding the working of the repatriation notices next week, when the notices will have been posted for a fortnight. No advantage will be gained by anticipating his report either with partial and imperfect information or premature conclusions.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): May I ask the hon. Gentleman if he can define Chinese public opinion?

[No Answer was returned.]

Wages of Chinese Coolies.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the determination of His Majesty's Government not to permit further recruiting of Chinese indentured labourers for the Transvaal will lead to a disturbance of the existing system, voluntarily carried on by the Mines Labour Agency, of distributing the portion of the coolies' wages allotted to the support of their families in China; and, if so, what arrangements are being made for carrying on this work.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Secretary of State has been in communication with Lord Selborne for some time with a view of placing the allotment system on a more satisfactory footing, but he has had no intimation that it is proposed to discontinue it.

The Zulu Rebellion.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there is any censorship of telegrams between this country and Natal; whether if he can say if the resolutions of sympathy with the Zulus now in rebellion, adopted at a recent labour demonstration at Woolwich, have been telegraphed to the Natal Government and Bambaata, or have been published in Natal newspapers; whether the Natal Government has declined Imperial aid in suppressing the Zulu revolt.

MR. RUNCIMAN: There is no censorship of telegrams between this country and Natal. The Secretary of State has no official information in regard to the resolutions referred to being transmitted to Natal. The Natal Government has not declined Imperial aid. Members of the Natal Government have publicly stated that they do not desire to ask for Imperial troops to be actively employed in suppressing the revolt. The battalion which is now stationed at Maritzburg was sent on the representations of Ministers in February that its moral effect upon the native community would be incalculable. H.M.S. "Terpsichore" was also for a short time moved to Durban.

Leinster Regiment—Petition on behalf of Mutinous Soldiers.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that a petition has been presented to the Lieutenant Governor of the Transvaal, Sir Richard Solomon, K.C.M.G., on behalf of the prisoners of the Leinster Regiment, convicted in 1903 for a mutinous offence and sentenced in one case to imprisonment for life, and in the other four cases to long terms of imprisonment; and whether, taking all the circumstances into account and the length of time those men have been in prison, he can now say that an inquiry will be held with a view to extending the clemency of the Crown to those prisoners.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Secretary of State has no information as to the presentation of such a petition, and has received no official information whatever on the subject since his predecessor stated in the House of Commons on 19th July, 1904, that no grounds had been submitted to him on which he would be justified in intervening in the administration of justice in this case.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): Will the Secretary of State himself inquire into this matter.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am afraid my noble friend cannot depart from the position taken up by his predecessor.

Repatriated Coolies—Penalties for Return to South Africa.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, if it has been decided what penalty or punishment will be inflicted upon a Chinaman who, after having been repatriated, returned to South Africa.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The penalty to be imposed is one of the points still under consideration and on which the proposals of the High Commissioner are awaited; but it is obvious that when the licences now current expire shortly, there will be no opportunity for a coolie to return.

Unemployment in the Transvaal.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he has any official information showing that one thousand unemployed workmen of the Transvaal have recently sought enlistment in the forces now operating in Natal; and that this dearth of employment and this state of things is attributable to the introduction of Chinese labour into the Colony?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I have no official information as yet on this point. The dearth of employment must be due to a variety of causes, the effect of each of which it is difficult to gauge without full inquiry.

The Partition of Bengal.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the two circulars issued by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam on the 8th November, 1905, have been completely or only partially withdrawn, and especially whether that portion of the second circular which relates to the prohibition of political or quasi-political meetings in public places has been withdrawn; and whether the circular of the Government of Bengal No. 1679 P—D, dated the 10th October, 1905, directed against schoolboys and authorising the enrolment as special constables of headmasters and teachers of schools and those connected with their management, has been withdrawn.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam has withdrawn all restrictions on public meetings and processions imposed by previous orders. The other circular of the Government of Bengal is of a completely different character. It was directed against acts of violence and breaches of the peace in connection with the boycotting of British goods, and the instructions were to have effect only in cases where mischief had actually occurred. One object of the circular was to induce the educational authorities to enforce discipline upon schoolboys and students, instead of leaving them to be dealt with by policemen and magistrates. So far as I know it has not been formally withdrawn.

SIR H. COTTON: Has it been enforced? Have the teachers and others concerned in the management of the schools been enrolled as special constables for the control of the schoolboys?

MR. MORLEY: I believe there was some circular inviting them to be enrolled as special constables. As far as I understand it, they were not enrolled as special constables because they were heads of schools and colleges; but they were invited as the heads of these institutions to deal with their students rather than allow them to continue unruly—a course which must have brought them into conflict with the police.

SIR H. COTTON: Special constables are not invited to enrol, but are compelled to serve, under an order of the magistrate.

MR. MORLEY: Special constables were enrolled in the event of disorders taking place and being persisted in. The magistrates were directed to enrol schoolmasters as special constables so that they might identify the boys and deal with them as schoolboys instead of as criminals. That was a very sensible provision.

SIR H. COTTON: Were not the headmasters competent to control the boys without that?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Barisal Disturbances.

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any action has been taken or is intended to be taken by the Government of India with regard to the alleged unprovoked assaults by the police on the delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Barisal, and the dispersal of the conference by force during last Easter.

MR. MORLEY: As those proceedings are, I believe, now before the courts of law, I can hardly say anything as to any administrative action in the matter. Meanwhile, as my hon. friend is aware, all the circulars and proclamations are now withdrawn.

Indian Administration.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, having regard to the fact that a memorial signed by Lord Hobhouse, Sir Richard Garth, Sir Richard Couch, Sir Charles Sargent, Sir William Markby, Sir John Phear, Sir John Scott, Sir William Wedderburn, and others, praying for the separation of judicial and executive functions in India, was addressed to his predecessor, Lord George Hamilton, in July, 1899, and that the opinions of all the local governments and administrations in India on the subject of that memorial were submitted to the Government of India before the close of the year 1901, and that the Government of India, notwithstanding repeated promises, have not yet submitted any Report in regard to that memorial, he will now issue such instructions to the Government of India as shall ensure that no further delay is allowed to occur in dealing with this memorial.

MR. MORLEY: I understand that until a very recent date, the Government of India did not regard the time as opportune for pressing this question rapidly to a decision. I will draw the attention of the Government of India to the subject, and they will no doubt let me know their views at an early date.

Chinese Maritime Customs.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the explanation offered by the Chinese Government in regard to the Imperial edict placing the maritime customs under the control of a Chinese administrator is regarded by His Majesty's Government as adequate; and whether a request has been made for further and more definite assurances.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): I have nothing to add to the answer given on the 22nd instant.† We have asked for more definite assurances; the reply has not yet been received.

China and British Trade.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he has considered the effect likely to be caused on Chinese public opinion by the stoppage of further recruiting of indentured labour in China for the Transvaal; and whether he is taking any precautionary measures to prevent the Chinese placing retaliatory restrictions upon the importation of British manufactures.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government are under no obligation to avail themselves of the facilities for recruiting coolies which were granted by the Convention of May 13th, 1904, and I have no reason to think that the cessation of recruiting will have any effect on Chinese public opinion.

Great Britain and Russia.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can make any statement as to the alleged agreement arrived at between His Majesty's Government and Russia.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot make any statement about the alleged agreement as described in the Press, because such an agreement does not exist. But I may add that there has been an increasing tendency for England and Russia to deal in a friendly way with questions concerning them both as they arise. This has on more than one occasion lately led the two Governments to find themselves in co-operation. It is a tendency which we shall be very glad to encourage and which, if it continues, will naturally result in the progressive settlement of questions in which each country has an interest, and in strengthening friendly relations between them.

Registration of Deaths—Chicken-Pox and Small-Pox.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, with reference to the entry in the Registrar-General's 67th Report for 1904 of 104 deaths from chicken-pox, whether he will order the transfer of the majority of these cases from the heading of chicken-pox to the heading of small-pox in the Registrar-General's corrected Returns, in accordance with the remarks made in Dr. Tatham's annual letter to the Registrar-General, analysing the causes of death.

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† See Col. 1128.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have communicated with the Registrar-General on this subject, and he informs me that it would not be practicable that the suggested transfers should be made, as he has no means of ascertaining how many of the cases referred to were in fact cases of small-pox.

Legislation on Unemployment.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the advancement of the session, and the extent of Parliamentary business to be dealt with, he can now inform the House that proposals will be placed before it sufficiently early to assure legislation which will this year make better provision for dealing with the distress and difficulties due to the unemployment still prevailing.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The Prime Minister has already intimated that this Bill cannot be introduced before Whitsuntide, and I do not think that I can at present add anything to that statement.

MR. CLYNES: Can the right hon. Gentleman give an assurance that legislation in fulfilment of the Government's promises will be introduced to deal with what is a serious and urgent matter of public importance, namely, the starvation and distress of thousands of men and women?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have nothing to add to the statements I have previously made on this subject.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the figures published in the May issue of the *Labour Gazette* as to the building trade show that what I stated yesterday was correct?

*MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the question.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am not answering yesterday's questions.

Local Distress Committees.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will issue a Return giving the number of local distress committees and the cost of working the same up to March 31st, 1906.

MR. JOHN BURNS: There are eighty-nine distress committees in England and Wales outside London. I am obtaining particulars as to their expenditure, and I will then consider the question of the issue of a return on the subject.

Report on the Unemployed.

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will put pressure upon the central (unemployed) body to present the Report for which he is waiting; and, if he does not see his way to do so, will he assure the House that the delay will not retard the introduction of his proposed amending Bill to the Unemployed Workmen Act.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am in communication with the chairman of the central (unemployed) body with a view of obtaining their preliminary report at the earliest date practicable.

Sunderland Distress Committee.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has received a Report of the working of the Unemployed Act from the Sunderland Distress Committee; and what action he proposes to take in regard to such Report.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have not at present seen the Report, but I have written to the Distress Committee for a copy of it.

Royal Commission on Motor Cars.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can explain the delay which has occurred in the presentation of the Report of the Royal Commission on motor cars; and whether he will undertake that the Vote for his salary shall not be put down until this House is in possession of such Report, and has had an opportunity of studying it.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I understand that the Report is still under discussion, but that its preparation is being proceeded with as rapidly as practicable. I fear I could not give the undertaking asked for in the last part of the Question.

MR. REMNANT: Shall we be able to discuss the Report before the end of the session?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I trust that the Report of the Royal Commission will be laid on the table of the House before the close of the session. Personally, I do not object to my salary being reduced, if an adequate discussion of the Report takes place.

MR. REMNANT: Shall we have an opportunity of discussing the Bill before it is extended?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I hope so; I will place no difficulty in the way.

MR. H. J. TENNANT: Can the measure not be included in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill?

MR. JOHN BURNS: Certainly.

Calverton Postman's Wages.

MR. STARKEY (Nottinghamshire, Newark): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a postman employed at Calverton, Nottinghamshire, at a wage of only 9s. per week, has been ordered to be vaccinated at his own expense; and will he say if this is the usual custom in the Post Office service.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I am having inquiry made and will communicate with the hon. Member.

London Jewish Schools.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state what sum was expended out of the rates on Jewish Schools in London during the last school year; and what proportion of that sum was expended in teaching Judaism.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.): I have no information on the subject.

Parliamentary Refreshment Bars.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he can arrange for additional facilities downstairs for refreshments, so that Members may not be compelled to leave the House and thus lose opportunities for taking part in divisions.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. LEWIS HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): I hope shortly to be able to announce the details of new accommodation for refreshments downstairs, which will enable the hon. Member to remain in continuous attendance.

Patent Agents.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that various patent agents and others describe their places of business, by brass plates and otherwise, as patent offices; whether he is aware that this misdescription is misleading and induces intending patentees to go to these places of business under the impression that they are, or are officially connected with, the Patent Office; and whether he will consider the advisability of promoting legislation on the subject.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): I am aware of the existence of the practice referred to, and in the event of the introduction of any legislation by the Government relating to patents, I will certainly consider the desirability of dealing with it.

Fees in the House of Lords.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY (Lancashire, Ormskirk): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what was the amount of the legal fees paid during the last year in the House of Lords; and how, and under what authority, statutory or otherwise, this sum of money is disposed of.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The total amount of legal fees paid during the past financial year in the House of Lords was £2,113 4s. By an arrangement made between the House and the Treasury in 1868, after reserving so much as may be required (together with the interest of the invested Fee Fund) to meet retiring allowances, all fees payable to the House of Lords were paid into the Exchequer. Since 1896–7 the surplus fees have been appropriated in aid of the annual Vote.

The New Forest.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the attention of His Majesty's Commissioner of Woods and Forests has been given to the numerous fires which have recently broken out in the New Forest; if he can state what precautions have been taken by the Crown authorities to guard against and prevent the destruction of this beautiful public property; whether they have any evidence that this wanton waste is the work of incendiaries; and if any persons have been apprehended, convicted, and punished for such offences.

MR. MCKENNA: This matter has long been the subject of serious consideration, and there are grave reasons for suspecting that in many instances the fires are spread by incendiaries. Rewards have been offered for information, but without effect. The Commissioners of Woods are considering what further steps can be taken to check the practice. Two youths were tried at the Winchester Assizes and released on their own recognizances.

Asked if any arrest had been made in connection with a fire last Easter by which 2,000 acres were destroyed,

MR. MCKENNA replied that he believed not, unless it was the case of the two boys already mentioned.

Ex-cabinet Ministers' Pensions.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the date on which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach notified to the Treasury his desire to cease drawing a political pension; and the date on which an application was received from Mr. Gerald Balfour applying to be placed on the pension list.

MR. MCKENNA: Sir Michael Hicks-Beach resigned his pension on December 1st, 1905. Mr. Gerald Balfour applied for his on the 5th idem.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Can any arrangement be made whereby Mr. Gerald Balfour's salary as a company director may be deducted from the amount of his pension?

MR. MCKENNA: No, Sir; no such arrangement can be made?

MR. DALZIEL: Are we to understand that the applicant applied four days after the previous pension had been withdrawn, and is it the case that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach continued to draw his pension on the ground of poverty after he had been paid £100,000 for Salisbury Plain?

MR. MCKENNA: I do not think poverty is the ground put forward. It is quite true that Mr. Gerald Balfour applied for his pension four days after Sir Michael Hicks-Beach had resigned his, but I do not think Mr. Gerald Balfour would have been likely to apply for that pension until his Government went out of office.

MR. DALZIEL: Was there any understanding in regard to the peerage being granted when this pension was given up?

MR. MCKENNA: None, so far as I am aware.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland): What is the nature of the declaration a Minister has to make when he receives a political pension?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should give notice of that Question.

Counsel's Retaining Fees.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he will consider the desirableness of introducing legislation to make barristers, who accept retainers on behalf of litigants and fail to appear on their behalf, liable in damages for breach of contract.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): I fear the sort of legislation the hon. Member suggests is not possible, and, in my opinion, if it were possible, it is not necessary or desirable. It is not possible, because there is no contract entered into between a barrister and his client, and damages in respect of a non-existent contract can scarcely be recovered even under the sanction of an Act of Parliament. If there be any breach of faith or duty, the client has a remedy, because the matter can be brought to the notice of the Benchers of the Inn, to which the counsel belongs, who have ample powers to see that reparation is given. The remedy is really in the hands of the client himself, because, in my experience, he prefers the mere chance of the services of a meteoric counsel who ranges over the whole legal firmament to the certainty of the presence of a stationary but less brilliant luminary. I may add that he may also follow the course which has been pursued with such conspicuous success by the hon. Member himself and conduct his own case.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I was not asking the question on my own behalf, but in the public interest. Has the Attorney-General ever known the benchers to order any kind of recompense to be given to a client who had suffered in this way, and what does he mean by "stationary luminary" so far as the King's Bench Division is concerned?

*SIR JOHN WALTON: I am not aware that a case has been submitted to the benchers, but I am quite sure that, if a case was submitted, the counsel would be asked to make the reparation demanded of him. I used the word stationary in a comparative sense with regard to the King's Bench Courts, and in a more absolute sense with regard to the Courts of Chancery.

Clifford's Inn and New Inn.

*MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire Market Harborough): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, before any final division is made of the funds arising from the sale of Clifford's Inn and New Inn, the claims of the University of London and other Universities and institutions providing legal education in London and the provinces to share in such funds will be taken into consideration.

*SIR JOHN WALTON: Yes. They have been and shall be considered.

Scottish Fishery Board.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland when the Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland will be published; and, whether, in view of the condition of some of the Scottish fisheries, he will take steps to expedite the publication of it.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The Report has been presented and is now being printed.

Scottish Procurators Fiscal.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether procurators fiscal are entitled to be elected and sit on Scottish county councils.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs): Under a regulation by the Lord-Advocate dated 25th November, 1889, procurators fiscal were directed not to allow themselves to be nominated as candidates, nor interfere in any way in the election of county councillors. That regulation is still in force, and I have no intention of in any respect abrogating it.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether procurators fiscal are allowed to carry on private practice or business in the towns or counties for which they act.

MR. THOMAS SHAW: The question whether a procurator fiscal is entitled to carry on private practice or business depends on the terms of his commission. In every case where it is possible, the policy has been to restrict the procurators fiscal entirely to their official work.

Cleagh Evicted Tenants.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Widow Lynch and Michael Lynch, tenants on the O'Gready property at Cleagh, Newmarket-on-Fergas, in the county of Clare, applied several times to the Estates Commissioners to reinstate them in their farms from which they were evicted in November, 1886 for the non-payment of one year's rent, and that emergency men are in their farm since they were evicted; whether two emergency men and one policeman were shot at and wounded on account of this farm; and will he inquire whether the Estates Commissioners will take up those farms for the tenants.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications for reinstatement from the persons named, and have directed one of their inspectors to inquire into the cases.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of withdrawing the police from these farms?

Mr. BRYCE said that did not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Dr. O'Brien, of Ennistymon.

MR. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the specific neglect of duty of which Dr. O'Brien, of Ennistymon, in the county of Clare, was guilty, and for which the Local Government Board called for his resignation; whether all the patients who were the subject of the inquiry left the hospital cured; whether he is aware that the inquiry was held in spite of the repeated protests of the guardians; whether he is aware that the same official who presided at the inquiry collected evidence beforehand; and whether the board of guardians requested the Local Government Board to permit Dr. O'Brien to continue in office.

MR. BRYCE: The cases of specific neglect of duty of which Dr. O'Brien was guilty, could not be properly stated within the limits of an answer to a Question. It is the fact that none of the patients who were the subject of the inquiry died in hospital, but this does not alter the Local Government Board's opinion as to the medical officer's neglect of duty. The inspector who held the formal inquiry on oath had, on the occasion of the previous visit to the workhouse in connection with the complaint of a patient that no proper professional assistance was rendered to him, made certain inquiries regarding some of the cases; and it is the fact that the board of guardians requested the Local Government Board to permit Dr. O'Brien to continue in office. It is the statutory duty of the Local Government Board to hold inquiries on oath in such cases, and they are empowered to remove an officer whom they find to have seriously failed in the discharge of his function; and as they considered that in this case they must, in justice to the sick poor at Ennistymon, exercise their powers, they called on Dr. O'Brien to resign, which he did.

MR. HALPIN: Will the Local Government Board sanction the doctor's reappointment by the guardians?

MR. BRYCE: No, I will not. I have looked into the case and I am satisfied the Local Government Board could not do otherwise than it has done.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: As no serious results followed the alleged neglect, will not the right hon. Gentleman meet the universal feeling of the district by giving the doctor at least another opportunity?

MR. BRYCE: I am sorry to say I do not think I can. Serious results did follow and disease spread among a number of people.

Dublin High Court Appointments.

MR. CONDON (Tipperary E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who, outside the Members of the Bench, claim or have a right to appoint junior or other clerks to positions in the High Courts in Ireland; whether such claim or right, outside the patronage which the judges exercise in their respective courts, has any authority; and to what offices is judicial patronage limited.

MR. BRYCE: I have referred this Question to the Lord Chancellor, who has furnished me with the following reply: "All appointments to junior clerkships in the High Courts in Ireland are made by open competition except in cases in which existing rights of patronage have been preserved by statute to certain judges. There are, however, certain clerks employed in the Central Office under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, who are not on the permanent official staff of the High Court, and pending the consideration of the requirements of that office and the *status* of the clerkships, the employment of these clerks is regulated by the registrar of title."

Mr. MacVEAGH (Down, S.): How many clerks have first been temporarily appointed and then forced on the permanent staff?

Mr. BRYCE: That does not seem to arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Mineral Rights in Irish Land.

Mr. CONDON: On behalf of the hon. Member for S. Meath, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have asked the assistance of the law officers to find a means by which the commissioners could lease or sell the mineral rights vested in them in properties sold under the Land Act of 1903; and, if not, what steps, if any, they have taken to secure that where minerals may be found or believed to exist, they shall not remain unused, and willing workers in their vicinity compelled to idleness or emigration.

Mr. BRYCE: I have already assured the hon. Member that this important matter is receiving the closest attention. I am not yet in a position to make a statement on the subject.

Political Economy in Irish Schools.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: On behalf of the hon. Member for West Kerry, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether in the national schools of Ireland any attempt is made to give Irish children an insight into the elementary principles of political economy, especially as it affects the welfare of their own country; and whether, seeing the desire that exists amongst all classes in the community to turn to the best account all the available resources of the country, steps will be taken to give the children in the schools a knowledge of the scientific principles of success in commerce and industry.

Mr. BRYCE: Political economy is not a subject of instruction in national schools, but the Commissioners of National Education inform me that lessons on some of the elements of branches of that science, such as banks, commerce, and kindred matters, are contained in the reading books of the fifth and sixth standards.

Hutchins Estate, Berehaven.

Mr. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received any communication relative to the sale of the Hutchins estate, situate near Allihies, Castletown, Berehaven, county Cork; and, if so, whether they have been informed that there are evicted tenants on it; and, seeing also that there is a large tract of grazing land in the possession of the landlord, will the Estates Commissioners see that the evicted tenants are restored to their holdings, or to a portion of this grazing land, the remaining portion to be used for the purpose of enlarging small adjacent holdings.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no originating application or request in respect of the sale of this estate has yet been lodged with them. Applications from five persons claiming reinstatement as evicted tenants upon the estate have been referred to an inspector for inquiry and report.

Mr. Kearney's Rossmore Farm.

Mr. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board made an offer to purchase Mr. Kearney's farm at Rossmore, Durrus; and, if so, with what result.

Mr. BRYCE: The reply is in the negative.

Rossmore Evicted Tenant.

Mr. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet inquired into the eviction of Mary Evans, at Rossmore, Durrus, county Cork; and, if so, what was the result of the inquiry.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have directed one of their inspectors to inquire into this case, but the inspector's report has not yet been received.

Bird Estate, near Bantry.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Baleragh, on the Bird estate, Kilcrohane parish, near Bantry, was offered for sale to the Congested Districts Board; whether the Congested Districts Board made an offer of purchase; whether they are aware that in purchasing this farm, they, in addition to improving two migratory tenants, would give twice as much land to each of the four Forlbeg tenants and would also improve the condition of the Escraha and Tooreen tenants; what are the dates on which their inspectors valued this farm; and when may a definite offer be made.

MR. BRYCE: The Congested Districts Board have arranged to purchase the portion of the Bird estate referred to, namely, Baleragh.

Irish Assistant Female Teachers.

MR. T. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Longford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the proposed appointment of assistant female teachers in Irish national schools after the 1st July, is voluntary or compulsory on the part of Catholic managers; and whether, in the case of managers who object to the arrangement, there will be special inquiries held before any compulsory order is made.

MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the appointment of junior assistant mistresses will be made only in cases in which the local managers apply for them. There is no distinction in the case of religion.

O'Grady Estate, North Longford.

MR. T. SMYTH: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Longford I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any inspection has been ordered in the case of the sale of the O'Grady Estate at Carn, in North Longford; whether he is aware that several important questions will arise for ruling; and will he undertake to see that a full report is received before any rulings are made.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are unable to trace any proceedings as having been instituted before them in respect of the sale of the estate mentioned.

Case of James McCann.

MR. T. SMYTH: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Longford I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether in the case of James McCann, convicted at the Longford March assizes, and sentenced to three years' penal servitude, the Lord-Lieutenant or Lords Justices, before deciding that the law should take its course, called for a Report from Mr. Justice Kenny; whether they also had a Report from the local police authorities; and on which report they based their decision.

MR. BRYCE: The decision in this matter was given by the Lords Justices. It would be contrary to the established practice to state the grounds upon which such decision was based, but the hon. Member may, I think, rest assured that the Lords Justices did not act without having full information before them.

Overflow of the Riffey.

MR. T. SMYTH: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Longford I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the complaints made as to damage to crops, etc., by the floods caused in wet weather by the overflowing of the River Riffey; and whether he will direct that one or two witnesses from this portion of county Longford be heard by the Commission on Drainage now sitting, with a view to the present state of things being remedied there.

MR. BRYCE: I understand that two witnesses from county Longford, including the chairman of the county council, will probably be examined before the Arterial Drainage Commission; but I would remind the hon. Member that the Commission was appointed to consider what amendments of the law are necessary to enable arterial drainage works to be carried out, and not to inquire into the needs of particular localities.

Recovery of Land Annuities.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Land Commission have recently obtained judgment against a tenant named Reidy for non-payment of an annuity due under a purchase agreement signed eighteen years ago; whether this annuity has been shown to the Land Commission to be excessive; whether, after an inspection of the lands, it has been declared by an inspector of another Government department that the occupier is paying too high a rent in the form of an annuity; and if he can take any steps to save this occupier from eviction and prevent other occupiers from placing themselves in a similar position by the payment of excessive prices for their lands.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Land Commission that the sale to the tenant purchaser in this case took place twenty years ago. The Commissioners recently obtained judgment for a half year's annuity due on May 1st, 1905. Further proceedings in the matter were deferred at the request of the tenant purchaser, who expressed the wish to dispose of his interest in the holding, and has since advertised a sale by auction. The Commissioners have no information that the annuity is excessive, or that the holding has been inspected on behalf of another Government department.

MR. MURPHY: As the farm was not sold when put up will the right hon. Gentleman recommend the Land Commissioners to comply with the tenant's request for a remission?

MR. BRYCE: I will convey the suggestion of the hon. Member to the Commission, but I have no right to make any recommendations.

Hungerford and Cloran Estates, Duhallow, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in reference to negotiations for the sale of the Hungerford and Cloran Estate, barony of Duhallow, county Cork, whether the Estates Commissioners are now in a position to say whether pressure to sign a purchase agreement has been brought to bear on Denis Breen, the present occupant of two evicted farms, with a view to exclude the two evicted tenants, in the shape of a writ for one year's arrears of rent; whether the Commissioners will instruct their inspector to inquire into this alleged pressure, and, if such is found to be the case, will the Commissioners decline to sanction the purchase under existing circumstances?

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have referred this case to one of their inspectors for inquiry, but until the inspector's report has been received they are unable to say what action they may take in the matter.

Irish Fishery Board.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state how many elected members of boards of conservators of fisheries there are in Ireland; the number of persons eligible to act on such boards because of their being owners of fisheries valued at £100 or over; the number of persons eligible to act on such boards because of their being justices of the peace whose holdings are bordering on rivers or lakes, and having paid one pound licence duty; and also the number, elected or otherwise, of fishermen who earn their living by fishing who act as members of such boards?

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that there are 254 elected members of boards of conservators in Ireland, half of whom are elected by licence holders in tidal divisions of the districts, and half by those in fresh water divisions. The number of fisheries valued at £100 yearly or upwards is sixty-five. There is a variation from year to year in the number of persons eligible to act on such boards by reason of their being magistrates paying licence duty and being owners of land abutting on rivers or lakes. The Department are, however, willing, if desired, to ascertain the number of such persons who acted as ex-officio members of the different boards during 1905. In the largest district (Limerick) the number was about ten. The Department are not aware of the number of members of such boards who earn their livelihood by fishing.

Westport Guardians and the Reverend Mr. Hannay.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the strong language and resolution used and adopted by the Westport, county Mayo, guardians, on the 17th May, towards the Reverend Mr. Hannay, rector of Westport, and workhouse Protestant chaplain, because of opinions expressed and characters and types portrayed in the novels of which the guardians allege that the reverend gentleman is author; whether, in view of the speech of one of the guardians advising that Mr. Hannay should be dragged through the streets of Westport and pitched into the river, the police will be directed to be watchful to prevent this suggestion from being carried out; and whether the Local Government Board intend, as demanded by the guardians, to dismiss the Reverend Mr. Hannay from the chaplaincy, on the charge of having written two very readable novels.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Is it in order to use the notice paper of this House in order to describe novels as "very readable"? I have tried to read one of these novels and failed miserably.

MR. BRYCE: I have seen, since this Question appeared, a newspaper account of the meeting referred to. Some rather pointed criticism appears to have been passed upon newspaper extracts from works of which the reverend gentleman is conjectured to be the author, but there does not appear to be reason to apprehend that any more direct form of disapproval will be manifested. It sometimes happens that critics do not themselves read the books on which they pass judgment, and I gather that this was the case in the present instance. The Local Government Board do not intend to dismiss the Reverend Mr. Hannay from the workhouse chaplaincy.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer that part of the question which says that these novels are "very readable," and say whether he has read them?

MR. BRYCE: The novels are not mentioned by name, and I do not know that I am entitled to assume what they are. But if one of them is the one I believe it to be, I am bound to say I found it very readable.

Irish Railway Rates on Grass Seed.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Department of Agriculture has been drawn to the fact that on the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) the rate per ton for conveying grass seed from Derry to Dublin (162 miles) is 6s. 8d., whilst from Banbridge to Dublin (86 miles) the rate is 9s. 2d.; and, if so, whether steps will be taken to induce the company to reduce the rates from Banbridge to figures proportionate to the rate from Derry.

MR. BRYCE: The attention of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction has not been drawn by any communication from agriculturists or traders to the rates referred to. They will now make inquiry into the matter with a view to such action as the circumstances may require.

Miss Nicholson's Sligo Estate.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the grazing farm of Annagheur, comprising a portion of the Miss Nicholson estate, situate at Castlebawldin, near Riverstown, county Sligo, and at present in the equity court, has been leased for a term of years under a court letting, to one James Murrin, a former herd of the farm; and, if so, will he state the circumstances under which this letting took place, and explain why the demands of the uneconomic landholders of the district to have this farm utilised for the enlargement of their holdings, were not acceded to.

MR. BRYCE: The registrar of the Land Judge's Court informs me that the estate in question is being administered by the land judge as receiver judge in a Chancery action of Gorman v. Gately. The letting to Murrin, under a court tenancy, of part of the lands in question, was made in accordance with the usual practice of the Court and after full consideration by the learned judge;

and as the acceptance of Murrin's proposal was a judicial act, the judge is not prepared to discuss the circumstances of the case or the reasons that actuated him in making the letting.

Richmond District Lunatic Asylum.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Board of Control prior to the year 1900 had plans and specifications prepared involving an expenditure of about £9,000 for the alteration of certain buildings in the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, to provide accommodation for private patients whose friends wished to have treated in that institution, and that the Joint Committee of Management on coming into office under The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, continued the operations begun by the Board and the necessary alterations made; that under the powers given to them by the above-named Act the Joint Committee drew up regulations for the reception and management of private patients and submitted them to the Lord-Lieutenant for his sanction, and that His Excellency withheld his sanction thereby refusing to allow the Joint Committee to use the buildings; and will he say whether such refusal was based on the plea that there are a number of harmless pauper lunatics in workhouses in the district; and whether, pending the publication and consideration of the Report of the Poor Law Commission, the Lord-Lieutenant will allow these buildings to be used having regard to the sum of public money spent upon them.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the plans and specifications referred to were prepared in 1900, not by the Board of Control, but by the Joint Committee of Management of the Richmond Asylum. The proposed works were for the purpose of providing further accommodation for the lunatic poor, and not for private patients, and Government approval was given to the scheme as for the first-named purpose. Upon the completion of the works the Committee drew up regulations for the reception and treatment of private patients in the new portion of the asylum. The Lord-Lieutenant's sanction was withheld upon the ground that it would be indefensible to permit asylum space to be appropriated for the benefit of the wealthier class of insane whose relatives could pay for their maintenance in private asylums, while there were such large numbers of lunatic poor in workhouses of the district who ought to be provided for in asylums. I am informed that there are at present about 600 persons of unsound mind in workhouses in the Richmond Asylum District who stand urgently in need of asylum treatment. The reply to the concluding inquiry is in the negative. The Report of the Irish Poor Law Reform Commission may be expected shortly, but I am not aware that it will have any direct bearing on the Question.

MR. FLAVIN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there are other institutions that can be utilised for the purpose of housing harmless lunatics?

MR. BRYCE: The hon. Member may safely assume that the action taken by the Lord-Lieutenant is in the interest of these poor people.

Incorporated Law Society.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the president's speech at a meeting of the Incorporated Law Society; will he cause the correspondence that passed between the Incorporated Law Society and the Estates Commissioners to be laid upon the Table; and is it his intention to take steps to increase the staff to enable the Land Act to be worked with more expedition.

MR. BRYCE: Since the Question appeared on the Paper, I have obtained a copy of a newspaper containing a report of the proceedings mentioned. I am informed that the correspondence between the Incorporated Law Society and the Estates Commissioners has already been published in the Dublin newspapers. I should doubt whether in the circumstances it is worth while to have it printed and be laid on the Table as a Parliamentary Paper. The staff of the Estates Commissioners has recently been increased for the purpose mentioned in the Question, and the Commissioners have at present under consideration the question of expediting procedure.

Uneconomic Holdings in County Cavan.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the estate owned by the Cookenden and Carey syndicate in county Cavan is largely composed of uneconomic holdings, and considerable portions of it congested; is he aware that these impoverished tenants are being warned to pay their old rack rents and arrears, and in view of the fact that the sale of this estate has been refused by the Estates Commissioners will some protection be afforded so as to avoid the whole district from being depopulated; and will he say why the Commissioners refused to allow the sale to go through.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the facts are as stated in the first part of the Question; but they have no knowledge as to the tenants being called upon to pay rent and arrears. When the proposed sale of the estate in parts was before the Commissioners they considered the Report of their inspector; and in the exercise of their discretion, and having regard to the economic conditions of the holdings, they refused to declare the lands offered for sale to be separate "estates" for the purposes of the Act of 1903. The Commissioners, however, will be prepared to purchase the entire estate, with a view to the re-sale of the holdings to the tenants, if the owners should be willing to sell under Section 5 of the Act.

MR. T. M. HEALY: And do the Government in the meantime intend to provide troops to evict these tenants? These are the men who broke down the bridges of the Cavan Railway twenty years ago.

Drumroe Evicted Tenant.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Ellen Reilly, daughter of Charles Maguire, deceased, who was evicted in 1884 from his farm in Drumroe, county Cavan, by Lieutenant-Colonel Clifford Lloyd and Mr. W. H. Lloyd, is this estate being sold, and will the untenanted land on this estate in Lossett and Coolbawn be included in the sale.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Ellen Reilly. Proceedings for the sale of the estate of W. C. Lloyd and others have recently been instituted before the Commissioners, and the lands referred to in the Question appear to be included in the property which is being sold.

Education Grants for Ireland.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutentant of Ireland if he has taken any steps to secure for elementary education in Ireland any equivalent for the annual sum of £1,000,000 estimated as required for elementary education in England and Wales under the present Education Bill; and, if not or in any event, whether he can state what sum Ireland is entitled to as an equivalent for this sum.

MR. BRYCE: The subject mentioned in the Question will not escape the attention of His Majesty's Government, but the time has not arrived for making a statement regarding it. I may refer the hon. Member to the Answer given by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Question of the hon. Member for North Derry on April 30th.†

Dublin Police Band.

MR. LIDDELL (Down, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on Sunday the 6th instant an order was issued directing the band of the Royal Irish Constabulary in Dublin to head the procession of Roman Catholic constables to Aughrim Street chapel for mass, and to wait for them and play them back to the Constabulary barracks after the service; and whether, seeing that this band is composed of twenty Protestants and twenty-five Roman Catholics, he will have the order withdrawn.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Inspector-General that the order in question was issued by the Commandant of the Royal Irish Constabulary Depot. It was not intended that the order should apply to the Protestant members of the band, but owing to a misapprehension the full band attended on the first two occasions. The Commandant has already before this Question appeared issued orders that the Catholic members of the band only shall attend in future.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 237.

Fitzwilliam Estate, County Wicklow.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many of the 1,055 tenants, who have purchased their holdings on the Fitzwilliam estate, county Wicklow, purchased outside the zones; how many years purchase did they pay on first and second term rents, respectively; and what was the total amount of their purchase money.

MR. BRYCE: There has not been sufficient time since the Question was put down to procure the detailed information asked for, but I will forward it to the hon. Member in the course of a day or two, or he can renew the Question if he should desire.

Irish Customs Watchers.

MR. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury how many police pensioners are at present employed as watchers in the Customs Department in Ireland, with pensions varying from £48 to £72 per annum; and whether he will consider the advisability of the employment of civilians of irreproachable character and fair intelligence in the positions now occupied by Royal Irish Constabulary pensioners.

MR. McKENNA: Out of sixty places of watchers at the various ports in Ireland, fifteen are filled by police pensioners with pensions varying from £48 to £72 per annum. In the appointment of watchers preference is given to pensioners from the Army, Navy, or police, because (*a*) a pension is regarded as a guarantee for good conduct and the correct discharge of duty, (*b*) the post of watcher is not itself pensionable. Non-pensioners are only appointed when suitable pensioners are not available.

Soldiers and Sailors in Irish Lunatic Asylums.

MR. COGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether Civil Service, Naval, and Military pensions payable to inmates in Irish lunatic asylums are reducible by whatever amount is paid to those asylums as capitation grant; if so, what fund receives the benefit of the amounts so deducted.

MR. McKENNA: The Answer to the first part of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. The deductions are made in pursuance of Section 7 (2) of the Superannuation Act of 1887. The amounts deducted remain to the benefit of the Vote to which the pensions are chargeable.

*MR. COGAN asked if steps would be taken to credit the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account with a sum equivalent to that deducted from the pensions of inmates.

MR. McKENNA: I quite appreciate the point of the hon. Member's Question, and I will took into the matter.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY asked if steps could not be taken to make the pensions payable to those dependent on the pensioners.

MR. McKENNA: I will inquire into that matter.

Dublin City Revaluation.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how long it is since the revaluation of the city of Dublin should, according to the statute law, have been undertaken; what is the cause for the delay; can he say when the work will be commenced; and how long is it estimated it should take to complete; and whether he is aware that the ratepayers of Dublin are anxious for the revaluation, except the publicans and brewers whose property is undervalued.

MR. McKENNA: Under Section 60 of the Dublin Corporation Act of 1900, the corporation are deemed to have made application for the revaluation of the city. Delay in commencing the work was due to the prior application of the Belfast Corporation for revaluation of that city, and the legal difficulties which have arisen during the carrying out of the work. The revaluation of Dublin will be commenced when the necessary financial arrangements have been made. I have no information respecting the last two paragraphs of the hon. Member's Question.

County Court Railway Grant.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the £93,000 promised under the Fishguard and Rosslare Act, 1898, was intended solely for railway development in county Cork, the claim of Waterford being satisfied by a reduction of £7,000 per annum in taxation; and whether, see now that part of the money remains unexpended, steps will be taken to have this used in constructing a railway from Clonakilty to Glandore, thus opening up the best fishing district in South Cork, as well as enabling the slate quarries of Benduff to be profitably worked.

MR. MCKENNA: The original intention as regards the £93,000 was that it should be voted for repayment to the Fishguard Company in the event of the conditions stated in the Agreement scheduled to the Act of 1898 being fulfilled. I am afraid that I can hold out no hope that any part of this money will be devoted to the purpose suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): Really the action taken by the hon. Member for Cork in the interest of the people of Waterford is most perplexing.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether employees of the Post Office in Ireland are permitted to belong to the Ancient Order of Hibernians; whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Francis M'Gilly, a postman at Annaghmore, county Armagh, who is reported to be the secretary of the Tartaraghan division of the Order in county Armagh; and, if so, what steps does he intend to take.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will inquire into the matter, and communicate with the hon. Member.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: And will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind that this is a benefit society which does a great deal of good among thousands of people?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Certainly.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs) said that it might be for the convenience of the House if he stated that he considered that the discussion on Clause 1 of the Education Bill should be concluded on Monday next, and it was proposed to ask the House to suspend the Eleven o'clock Rule for that purpose. On Tuesday the Government proposed to proceed with the Committee stage of the Finance Bill. On Wednesday, the chief business would be the Motion for the adjournment, but it might also be necessary to take a few minor orders, if they had not been previously disposed of. He might perhaps particularly refer to the Metropolitan Police Commission Bill, which had been estopped day by day. It had been understood that the Bill would go through the House, as the Bill which formed the precedent for it did last year, without opposition, and he hoped there would be no objection to its being taken on Monday. If not opposed it might be taken, and he trusted it would pass the remaining stages the following day.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): On what day will the Labourers' Bill be taken?

MR. BRYCE: I still hope to bring it in on Monday under the Ten Minutes Rule.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said there might be some discussion upon the Metropolitan Police Bill. Perhaps it might be brought in among minor Bills on the Wednesday.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that would only carry the matter as far as the Second Reading, and the other stages would then have to be taken after the Whitsuntide holidays, which would be almost equivalent to a frustration of the intentions of the House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: What will be the business immediately after the holidays?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that on the Thursday when the House reassembled after the Whitsuntide holidays, he proposed that Army Votes which were not necessarily of a contentious character should be taken. Supply would also be taken on Friday. The following Monday it was intended to resume the discussion of the Education Bill in Committee. He hardly considered it likely that the Committee stage of the Trade Disputes Bill could be taken until the Education Bill had passed through Committee.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked when the Committee stage of the Trade Disputes Bill would be taken.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN replied that that did not come within the range of the days to which his vision was confined. He thought the Education Bill would have to be the main business of the House until it was finished; but the Trade Disputes Bill would be taken at the earliest opportunity.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): Shall we be able on the Thursday we reassemble to discuss the question of the amount of crime in the Army?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That will depend on the Votes submitted and on the ruling of the Chair.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): What Votes will he taken?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Among others the Volunteers Vote, Votes 5 to 12, Votes 14 and 16, Ordnance, Works, Buildings, Establishment, Education, Miscellaneous, and non-Effective Votes.

SELECTION STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Open Spaces Bill: Mr. James Parker; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Glover.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Mr. Parker; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Glover.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]: Mr. Kelly.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

SUPPLY [9TH ALLOTTED DAY]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,053,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the expense of Victualling and Clothing for the Navy, including the cost of Victualling Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

*MR BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) moved the reduction of the vote by £10,000, in order to draw attention to the real working of the system under which the Navy was at present victualled. He said the theory of the victualling of the Navy was that the Admiralty completely fed both officers and men, and no doubt the quality and quantity of the provisions supplied by the Admiralty accordingly was extremely good. But so long ago as 1799 it was found that the men were not content to rely solely on the Admiralty dietary, and a system of "savings" was instituted. The Admiralty said in effect —"We provide you with food; if you do not like to take that you need not, and we will give you a certain allowance for it." This gave rise to the establishment of ship's canteens, and that inevitably led to well-founded discontent. The allegations of corruptions and abuses culminated in 1902 in the appointment of a Committee to consider the subject of victualling. The evidence had not been published, but it was admitted that the Committee's report disclosed very serious and grave abuses. The Committee recommended that the old system of the ship canteen should be superseded by the tenant system, under which a tenant held a contract for the management of the canteen, paying the ship's company a fixed rental, and being subject, so far as prices and his dealings with the ship's company were concerned, to a committee consisting of the captain and certain other officers and representative ratings. That system sounded reasonable, but worked extremely badly. What happened? While a ship was commissioning the agents of rival contractors appeared on the lower deck and ingratiated themselves, by methods which would not bear inspection, with a few of the higher ratings on the lower deck. These few leading ratings, under those inducements, selected one particular contractor. The captain, who regarded the canteen as a great nuisance and an excrescence on his ordinary duties, usually agreed to this selection without question as being that of the ship's company. The tenant, thus chosen, entered the ship, and from that moment charged whatever he pleased. The mess books which he had seen showed a very serious state of affairs in this respect. It was undeniable that at the present moment the men of His Majesty's Fleet throughout the whole world and even in Home waters, for things which they bought in increasing quantities and upon which they depended for their sustenance, paid prices which were 50 or 100 per cent. over anything which was reasonable. Ordinary bread which when of the very best quality could be obtained at 10d. a gallon was sold in the Navy at from 1s. to 1s. 4d. a gallon. Tinned milk which one could purchase at 3d. a tin elsewhere was sold for 6d., and butter throughout His Majesty's Navy was sold to the men in the canteens at 1s. 2d. a pound. He asserted, and it could be shown beyond contradiction, that the so-called butter which was sold at 1s. 2d. a pound was not butter at all, but margarine of contemptible quality, which could be purchased anywhere at 6d. or 7d. a pound. But that was by no means the worst of it. There was absolutely no control of any kind whatever on these canteens. There was no system by which the goods supplied were even weighed or checked. The accounts which were rendered seemed from *malice prepense* to be rendered in an absolutely illegible form so as to make it impossible for anybody to check them. It was a small thing, but it showed the system, that no stamp was even affixed to the receipts in regard to these mess accounts although they amounted to huge sums every month. The Committee, moreover, would hardly believe that throughout the Navy at the present moment it was the universal practice with many canteen firms to give not sixteen but twelve ounces per pound of the food they supplied. Hon. Members would ask why did not the canteen committee, which represented the ship's company, take action, and that was no doubt what the right hon. Gentleman who represented the Admiralty would say. No doubt that committee represented the ship's company and were in a fiduciary position towards them, and it would be asked why did they not control these canteen tenants. The answer was an extremely simple one. It was that a system which would be extremely satisfactory in an ordinary free community was bound to be unsatisfactory in the highly artificial society of the lower deck of a man-of-war. These men who sat upon the canteen committees were members of a service in which discipline was carried to an extent that was not realised ashore, and every man who sat upon those committees knew perfectly well and every man on the lower deck knew perfectly well that if he once got a character for being the kind of man who made trouble in regard to the canteen it would be very bad for him in regard to his career. He knew of many cases with which he would not trouble the Committee. He knew of cases in which men had been punished for having brought complaints in regard to the canteen which any unprejudiced person would say were well-founded. The long and the short of it was that, while the representative system was good in a free community, it was sure to fail in a highly disciplined service such as existed on board a man-of-war. How did the matter stand? The position was that the men of the Fleet were being forced to an increasing extent to rely for their food upon a system for which the best that could be said was that the prices were fantastic, and that the quality of the goods was extremely bad. The system presented all the symptoms of an entrenched and corrupt monopoly. It was thoroughly bad, and could not be defended. He was sure the Secretary to the Admiralty would not defend it. That being so it was no small matter. There were, as he had explained, two systems of victualling in the Navy. There was the official system and the auxiliary system, and one would imagine that the official supply was the greater of the two. If anybody doubted the incapacity of any Government Department, even the Admiralty, to provide a dietary which would satisfy men of this description, one had only to point to the fact that the bill for the official food supply of the men was infinitely less every year than the value of the food which they bought from these auxiliary sources, in spite of the prices to which he had referred. In 1905-6 the total cost of the provisions supplied by the Government to the Fleet would be found by the Estimates to be £762,000, but it was fair to add to that a considerable sum of standing stock which was partly used up in the year, and he supposed it would be a fair estimate to say that about £850,000 worth of food was provided by the Admiralty to the Fleet in the last year. But how much was paid by the men to the canteens? Not £850,000, but at least £1,500,000 was spent by the men on food during that year in the canteens. What one found, therefore, was that the official food supply was about one-third of the total food supply, and that not less than two-thirds of the food used by the men came not from the Admiralty but from the private canteens. What was the position of the Admiralty? The Admiralty was perfectly well aware of the circumstances; they knew perfectly well that the disproportion between the amount of food which they could supply and the amount of food which the men got from the canteen was growing and that the men relied less and less upon their supply and more and more upon the canteen. At this moment, however, the position of the Admiralty was what it had always been, one of tacit recognition of the system and yet of repudiation of all responsibility for the manner in which the system was conducted. On the 30th of April he asked the right hon. Gentleman a Question in that House—a Question which involved grave charges of fraud against many of the canteen-tenants in the Channel Fleet. What was the right hon. Gentleman's answer? He said that the Admiralty had no information in the matter, and in effect suggested that the Admiralty did not greatly care whether the men were being defrauded in this way or not. He very respectfully suggested to the right hon. Gentleman in view of his increasing reliance upon the outside system and the decreasing reliance upon official sources, and of the great abuses which prevailed under the present system, which he was sure he would not deny, that the time had come when the Admiralty would be well advised to lift their heads out of the sand in which like ostriches they had buried them and acknowledge that the system did exist, and that they could not refuse responsibility for what was neither more nor less than the robbery of the men under their control. The present system was quite disgraceful, and its continuance seemed all the more disgraceful in view of the fact that in a great institution under the Admiralty a new system had recently been set up, through the enterprise of a few officers, which provided a naval canteen satisfactory to everybody concerned. He referred to the system of canteen management recently initiated at Portsmouth Naval Barracks. That system could easily be extended to His Majesty's ships generally. He was perfectly convinced that if it were an enormous boon would be conferred upon the men of the Fleet, and what was far more important, it would conduce to the greater efficiency of the Fleet. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give some indication that, in view of the great and admitted abuses to which he had referred, and in view of the fact that under his eye and hand he had a complete and possible remedy, he would be able to assure the Committee that the Admiralty would not continue the absurd system under which the victualling of the Fleet was now conducted, but would take the matter under their own control and devise some system which would prevent the indefinite perpetuation of proved and acknowledged abuses. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,043,200, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

*MR. J. WILLIAMS BENN (Devonport) said he desired to associate himself with his hon. friend in his remarks as to the victualling of the Navy. He might be permitted to say that he seemed to hear in those remarks an echo of many speeches made by his hon. friend the senior Member for Devonport. The Secretary for the Admiralty had admitted the viciousness of the present system, and he was perfectly sure that when the right hon. Gentleman had the opportunity and saw that the remarks of the hon. Member opposite were justified, he would be able to make some recommendation in the direction of the system which the hon. Member for Norwood had brought before the Committee. He desired to draw attention to some very minor matters which, however, caused a good deal of annoyance and a feeling of resentment among the men. First of all, there was a class of men who were called "writers," and he desired to know whether his right hon. friend could not alter the style and title of those gentlemen and bring them into the grade of civil clerks. He also noticed that for something like twenty-six years they had had no increase in pay. In the constituency of Devonport house-rent had increased 30 per cent. and he submitted, therefore, that the case of these men was entitled to some consideration. With regard to the question of uniform clothing he thought he was justified in saying that the present seamen's uniform was unsuited in many cases to the requirements of a ship of war, and that many modifications were necessary to make it efficient for service on land as well as at sea. He ventured to suggest that the different uniforms might be assimilated for all ratings from that of boys upwards, and that distinguishing badges might be used to show the rating. There was another matter which he desired to draw attention to, which was that there were a class of men who acted as stewards on board ship, but who were described as domestics. This caused a great feeling of resentment, and he thought these men would be greatly gratified if their style and title was amended to that of "ship's steward." They very much resented being called domestics. He apologised for bringing these very small points before the right hon. Gentleman, but he could assure him they were matters which excited considerable feeling.

*MR. MADDISON (Burnley) said the question raised was a very important one. He expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty would give some assurance to the Committee that the Admiralty were going to alter a system which appeared to be inflicting a very serious wrong upon the men of the Navy. These Estimates raised very important matters, and the hon. Member for Norwood had ventilated some very substantial grievances. Some of the stereotyped methods of continuing what was obviously wrong went on year after year. The question brought forward by the hon. Member for Norwood was not new, but it was a condemnation of the officials of the Admiralty. Many hon. Members were strongly opposed to the large expenditure that now went on in the Army as in the Navy, but they had always taken the line that they did not want to retrench at the expense of the men who worked the ships. The men were wanted, and wanted in good condition, and the hon. Member for Norwood had made a suggestion which, if carried out, would, without causing a penny to be paid out of the public purse, increase the wages of the men enormously. They were now mulcted and blackmailed by an absurd system which had been allowed by the Admiralty to continue from year to year. They now expected something from the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty. He was a reformer and they had confidence in him. But they did not want him to acquire the official habit of the Front Bench on which he sat and give the official reply that no doubt there were very great disadvantages in the system, but on the other hand—he loved the official style—there was great difficulty in interfering with the free choice of the men. He knew nothing about actual life in the Navy, but he had no doubt that the hon. Member for Norwood was quite right when he stated that this freedom of choice was conspicuous by its absence. He supported the Motion.

Mr. JENKINS (Chatham) agreed with the hon. Member for Devonport that the clothing for our seamen was practically obsolete. One would imagine from the way in which they were clothed that we were still living in the days when the old wooden walls were on the water and the men had nothing to do but to climb the rigging. But nowadays a man-of-war was a huge piece of machinery from stem to stern; yet the men were asked to work the ships in clothing which was most objectionable and most unhealthy. Much exception had been taken to extravagant expenditure, but they did desire that the men should be well clothed and well fed and generally in good condition. They wanted the Secretary to the Admiralty to give some undertaking that the condition, which was by this time well known to the Admiralty, of the clothing and the feeding of the men, would be improved. He expressed the opinion that there was too much extravagance in the shape of gold lace and cocked hats, and that if there were less spent in that way more could be done for the men.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty would, of course, reply to the many questions raised, but he would like to say one word in reply to the hon. Member for Burnley, who had very frankly said he was not acquainted with the victualling of the Navy. The hon. Member had not quite realised what had taken place. The scale of Navy victualling was based upon what was required in time of war. It was obvious that they could not allow the men in time of peace the same as in war time, and the result was that the men had to get a great amount of things which were not on the war establishment of ships. For that purpose the men were allowed to form and did form committees of their own. The hon. Member for Norwood was wrong when he said that the men had no control. That control very often fell upon a few persons, but those persons were undoubtedly representatives of the lower deck. During the last Administration at the Admiralty this question was discussed and a very important change made. The Admiralty recognised that the service supply of food was not adequate to the requirements in the matter of variety, and as the result of a very strong Committee considerable additions were made to the dietary scale. He thought the Secretary to the Admiralty would confirm what he was about to say, namely, that it was all very well to put articles, however good, upon the official scale, but the bluejacket had an ineradicable dislike to what was supplied by the Government.

*Mr. MADDISON: No wonder.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER thought the hon. Gentleman was wrong, and that, if he would investigate this matter for himself and inquire into the sources of supplies to the Navy he would find that it was almost impossible to subject articles to closer scrutiny or to get better sources of supply.

*Mr. MADDISON: I was not doubting that. I rather wished the Government would take full control.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was mistaken in supposing the hon. Gentleman was rather repeating the suggestion that was sometimes made that the men were justified in mistrusting the Government. He did not think it was true, and it would be very unfortunate if it were. He had sampled the foods very often and made very minute inquiries into the sources of supply and character of the food, and found them exceedingly good. But very often the men would not take the articles that were provided. He would give an example. They had had advice from many hon. Gentlemen that it would be an advantage to put jam on the dietary scale. The Admiralty bought thousands of pounds, and he saw mountains of it stacked in the Victualling Yard, but the moment the men got it the demand for it diminished. It was not just, however, to a public department when what they supplied was good and when they had made enormous efforts to get abreast of public requirements, to charge them with shortcomings in this matter. There remained the other point as to whether the time had come when they could safely transfer the control of the canteen from the men to the officers of the ship. In some respects that would be an admirable step, but it must be remembered that they would be taking away from the men privileges which, when they were likely to be deprived of them, they would value. He had read scores upon scores of letters sent by the men with regard to victualling and the conditions under which these canteens existed, and personally he would be very glad if the Secretary to the Admiralty could tell the Committee that he thought the time had come when they could safely introduce the Portsmouth canteen system into the canteens of the ships at sea. In that matter he thought they must trust to a certain extent the judgment of the officers.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmorland, Appleby) said he wished to draw attention to one question with regard to dietary, and that was the continued use of spirits as a daily ration. The time had come, he thought, when rum should cease to be regarded as a necessary part of the daily diet of our seamen. It was quite true that in deference to the growing opinion against spirits the men were allowed a substitute. There was a general feeling among the men, however, that the money substitute, namely, ¾d. a day, was not an equivalent. It was consequently a frequent practice, he was told, even among teetotalers in the Navy, to take their rum, and by arrangement, pass it on to those who still relished it. He knew this was against the regulations; still it occurred, and he urged upon the right hon. Gentleman that the time had come when an end should be put to the practice of supplying spirits as a part of the daily rations.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Why not stop it in the House of Commons?

*MR. LEIF JONES said it was no fault of his that it was not. He did stop it as far as he could. In making his suggestion he might quote the example of the United States Navy, which abolished the use of rum as a ration so long ago as 1862, actually in the middle of the Civil War, because of the evil which resulted from the supply of that ration. He did not think anyone connected with the United States Navy would return to the old system. The greatest possible benefits had accrued to the men in the United States Navy from the cessation of the rum rations, on the testimony of all who were connected with that service. He ventured to think the same results would follow if the example were adopted in our Navy. He knew he would fill the hon. Member for Norwood with dismay if he proposed that the use of rum should cease in His Majesty's ships, and therefore he was not going to ask the Admiralty to take any heroic measures. What he would suggest was this. At present the men had three alternatives. They could have rum, money value, or tea, cocoa, and so forth, and his suggestion was that while not interfering with the men at present in the service, new recruits should be offered only the alternative of money or the other substitutes for rum. By a gradual process in that way the rum rations would cease throughout the Navy. He believed it would tend greatly to the advantage of the service and would be welcomed by an increasing number of the men themselves.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee) frankly confessed that he had found this short debate both interesting and instructive. He thought the hon. Member for Norwood had made out a case at all events for inquiry. He was very much relieved when, after a condemnation of the canteen system on board ship, he praised the canteen establishment at Portsmouth. He had himself critically examined that canteen and he could say that he came away with an excellent opinion of it. One thing that struck him, however, was that for the privilege of selling beer at a penny a glass to men attending the canteen a tenant paid to the managing committee no less than £3,000 a year, which sum was used by the men in various ways, in part, he was glad to think, in keeping up a corps of cadets. He did not dispute the *gravamen* of the charge the hon. Gentleman had made, and he thought the time had come for something to be done. The first thing, was, of course, an inquiry within the Admiralty itself, and he thought he might promise that a full and complete inquiry would be made. With regard to baking on board ship, he would point out that improved bakeries had been provided. The hon. Member for Devonport had raised the question of clothing and the position of writers. The whole subject of clothing was actually under consideration by the Admiralty. With regard to the writers, they complained of the name and desired to be called clerks. That was a complaint which had come from many of the dockyards, but it amused him to think that anybody would imagine that the title of clerk was a higher degree than the title of writer. When the proper time came the point raised about the spirit rations would not be forgotten.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said the control was very good if the officers were kept up to the mark. At one time there was nothing sold but beer, and there was some friction as to the way the canteens were carried on by the officers.

*MR. BOWLES said that after the sympathetic and satisfactory answer given by the right hon. Gentleman he did not feel that he would be justified in pressing his Amendment to a division, and he would ask the leave of the Committee to withdraw it. The system of canteen management, regulation and control in vogue at Portsmouth had won the admiration of everybody. He had no doubt that the promised inquiry would result in the extension of that system with great advantage to His Majesty's Navy.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £275,500, Medical Establishments and Services.

3. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £14,700, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Martial Law, including the cost of Naval Prisons at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907.'"

*MR BOWLES said he desired to move a reduction of £1,000 in regard to the item of £1,700 for courts-martial, in order to call attention to the remarkable system under which justice was administered by naval courts-martial at present, and under which it had been administered for a long time past. Naval courts-martial were clothed with enormous powers, and it was necessary that they should have extremely strong powers. They had constantly to deal with difficult cases often involving the whole question of the maintenance of discipline in His Majesty's Navy. In the vast majority of cases the justice administered by courts-martial all the world over was of the most excellent, fair, and merciful description, and he had nothing to say against the general administration of justice by those courts. The mere fact that from the necessities of the case it was considered essential to give such stupendous powers to these courts as they now enjoyed made it equally necessary that there should be some sort of control over their decisions by a superior authority. A certain measure of control did exist, but it was entirely illusory and different from the practice in the Army and in military courts-martial. Indeed, naval courts-martial were left entirely masters of the situation and there was no effective control whatever over them. The procedure was as follows:—A man on the China Station, miles away from this country, might commit an offence of sufficient gravity to warrant his being tried by court-martial. This case would be tried out in China. The court-martial would meet, have the man before it, hear the evidence and try the case and come to its conclusion and verdict accordingly. The man would be brought back and the sentence decided upon would be announced to him. Forthwith upon the announcement of the sentence without any interval of any kind the sentence would begin to take effect. The man might have been sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour and instantly he would be sent to gaol and put into the cell. There was no waiting or delay. At the conclusion of the proceedings of the court the President dispersed the court and dissolved it. And it was thus only after the punishment had actually begun that the system of control and revision began to come into operation. The proceedings of the court-martial were forwarded immediately to the Commander-in-Chief of the station and he revised them and made any notes or remarks he desired to make in regard to them. The Commander-in-Chief was a busy man, and this, of course, took time. When he had finished with the report of the proceedings it was packed up and the whole thing was sent with the remarks of the Commander-in-Chief to the Admiralty. It took the papers some time to get there, because they were sent by post. If the prisoner had pleaded guilty and no point of law arose, the papers went straight to the Board. In the vast majority of cases, however, the prisoners pleaded "Not guilty," and in those cases the papers went to the Judge-Advocate of the fleet, who revised and scrutinised them, made his report upon them, and then returned them to the Board. Thus the sentence went from the court which pronounced it to the Commander-in-Chief, from him to the Admiralty, then to the Judge-Advocate, and then back to the Admiralty Board. Supposing the sentence was found by the Board to have been improperly imposed, how long would it take to have this complicated procedure gone through in the case of a man on whom sentence had been pronounced? A long time. And throughout all that time the man would have been serving his sentence. It seemed to him a ridiculous system—and he hoped it would seem so to the Committee—to try and sentence a man, and then, while he was undergoing the sentence, to go through a long and complicated process which must, he supposed, in the majority of cases take longer than the time of the sentence in order to find out whether the sentence ought to have been given or not. Would not the right hon. Gentleman, or anybody, have serious ground for irritation if, after serving a sentence, he was to be told, as must constantly happen under this system, that in the opinion of the Admiralty half the sentence would have been sufficient, or that the whole sentence was wrong. This was what he called illusory control. The process, he would point out, was the reverse of that in the case of military courts-martial. What happened in the case of members of the Army applied under the Army Act equally to marines ashore. A marine, when afloat, was under the fantastic system he had described. When a military court-martial passed a sentence it did not take effect for a considerable time. At the conclusion of the trial an account of the proceedings was sent to the Judge-Advocate General for review, and it was submitted to the Army Council and the Board of Admiralty respectively. The Army Council and the Board of Admiralty had power to send back the finding of the court to the court which had made the finding for revision of the sentence in cases where that was thought to be necessary. It was only when the Army Council or the Board of Admiralty had confirmed the sentence that it began to take effect. There was a substantial difference between the two methods. Unless there was some serious and weighty reason in favour of the present system in the Navy it should be altered, for it seemed to be a gross and palpable anomaly and injustice.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A. be reduced by £1,000."—(*Mr. Bowles.*)

Mr. JENKINS (Chatham) said he desired to call attention to the fact that chief officers, petty officers, and non-commissioned officers in the Navy could be dealt with by the captain of a ship for a very trivial offence, and that they could be disrated without any appeal to a court-martial. That seemed to him a very serious state of affairs. A man gained warrant rank, or non-commissioned rank, after many years service, and in order to gain promotion he must be a man of ability, and his character must be exceedingly good, but for a small offence he could be disrated. He had in his mind a case where very recently a man was disrated for a small offence, and if he were to mention it to the Committee he was sure they would agree with him that the punishment was not suited to the offence. The whole of the naval men were desirous of having trial by court-martial, and that some one of non-commissioned rank should be appointed who thoroughly understood the position of their fellow-men. When persons in civil life were brought before a criminal court charged with serious offences they had the right to appeal to be tried by jury. Why should not the same right be extended to seamen on board His Majesty's ships? This was a grievance which the men thought they had a right to raise in this Committee. He asked the Secretary to the Admiralty to consider the matter. Could not these men be dealt with in the same way as the captain of a ship, a lieutenant, or any superior officer?

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the hon. Member for Norwood had by this Motion opened up a question which had a great personal attraction for himself, because it was one in which he took a good deal of interest in former days, when he was in a position of "greater freedom and less responsibility." A demand had been made to-day for the assimilation of the practice in the matter of trials. In what he was about to say it must be understood that he was not speaking officially for the Admiralty on that matter, but indulging in a personal reminiscence. The hon. Member opposite did not fully explain the position of Judge-Advocate General in former days. The Judge-Advocate General in former days was an independent Minister having direct access to the Crown; he was independent of the War Office in matters relating to court-martial, and he stood between the private soldier and the military authorities. That was an office which, he had always thought, was well worth retention, but unfortunately now the Judge-Advocate General, instead of being an independent Minister having access to the Crown, and always reporting directly to the Crown on his own responsibility, was a mere subordinate official who was under the War Minister. His personal solution of the question would have been not to have abolished the office of Judge Advocate-General as it had been abolished in respect to his being a Minister, but to have given him control over Naval courts-martial as well as Army courts-martial. He was expressing his own personal opinion in this matter. He did not know whether he rightly gathered that the hon. Member for Norwood desired in all cases where an appeal was entered from the decision of a court-martial that the carrying out of the sentence should be stopped pending the disposal of the appeal.

*MR. BOWLES: Yes, Sir, that is the point.

*MR. ROBERTSON said that involved a large point in criminal law. It was a difficult and delicate point.

*MR. BOWLES said the revision and the scrutiny of the proceedings before a court-martial amounted to a useless formality unless the beginning of the sentence was postponed until the scrutiny was completed.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that was a very debatable point, but he would not debate it now. He did not know that this question was to be brought on at all. He might say that the attention of the Admiralty had already been given to the system of court-martial in the Navy, and that a Committee for the consideration of the whole subject had been, if not actually appointed, at all events decided upon. He thought he was correct in saying that. He thought that decision would satisfy the hon. Member. The important point raised by the hon. Member for Chatham would naturally be attended to. He would try to remember it and to see that it was brought before such a Committee. He hoped he had given satisfaction to the hon. Member and that this Vote would now be allowed to be taken.

*Mr. BOWLES said he was very glad to learn that this matter was engaging the attention of the Admiralty, and he hoped that the Committee to be appointed would see the force of his contention. After the assurance of the right hon. Gentleman he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £165,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Educational Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

*Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis) said he desired to call the attention of the Committee to the great rise which had taken place in recent years in the cost of the educational services for the Navy. During the last ten years the Vote had doubled, and if some subsidiary Votes were included it had more than doubled in four years. He could bring home to the Committee this increase more forcibly by saying that in three years the Navy Education Vote had increased by £30,000 from £138,000, or 22 per cent., which was exclusive of large sums spent on the new system of boy artificers and training mechanicians, which appeared on other Votes. Some hon. Members seemed to think that the increase in the Navy Votes was due to an increase in the number of men. But that was not so, because the number of men had actually decreased in this three years' period by 1,500. It had been largely due to the new scheme of training for the service. He found, roughly, that it took now about ten years for an executive officer to reach a position of responsibility; and that that training cost at the least £1,000. All boys were now entered at thirteen years of age, and the additional cost of the training of an executive officer was about £250, that of a marine officer was more by £700 and of an engineer officer £500. By abolishing the direct entry of engineer officers into the Royal Navy, a class who cost the country nothing for their training, the new system would cost the country £100,000 in substituting new officers for say one hundred direct entry engineers. The change which had been initiated was the result of the battle between specialisation when young and specialisation when old; of specialisation as a pastime and specialisation for a lifetime. Specialisation when young and for a lifetime existed in every Navy in the world except in America where the new system of specialisation for a period only was acknowledged to be a failure. It existed also in every rank on shore and also in the mercantile marine. The new system was also a substitution of a system of artificial selection for a system of natural selection. By natural selection he meant that the boy himself chose the line in which he meant to spend his life. From information he had in his possession he found that out of 650 cadets at Osborne only two were the sons of naval engineer officers, whereas according to the Keyham scale there should have been eighty-five. What was worse was that by the present system they were divorcing the Navy altogether from the country. They were cutting off the chance of receiving boys from the technological, grammar, and public schools of the country. Again, he found that the Royal Commission on the Royal College of Science strongly urged the encouragement by the Government of the technological schools; but by the present system of education of officers for the Navy they were going in the opposite direction. They were setting up an *imperium in imperio*. Moreover, the present system was divorcing the Royal Navy from the mercantile marine, because the Royal Navy reserve officers who were efficient in executive duty would later on be told they were not wanted because they did not know engineering and the engineers of the mercantile marine would be excluded because they could not come up on deck to take charge of the ship.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.) drew attention to the fact that forty Members were not present.

Committee counted, and forty Members being present,

*Mr. BELLAIRS continued his speech. He said he was, when interrupted, about to call attention to the fact that the new educational system was divorcing the Navy from the workshops of the country—as in the competition of service trained boy artificers and stoker mechanicians, who were to take the place of the artificers we had always obtained by competition from the ranks of private industry. But what would appeal to the Committee more than anything else as showing the divorce of the democracy from the Royal Navy was the rules about the entry of cadets into Osborne. He had evidence to prove that the expense to parents of entering cadets to Osborne was that they must put aside £600 for their boys during the time at Osborne in spite of the State paying £468. The budget, apart from holiday expenses, was a minimum of £135 and a maximum of over £150 a year. He knew that on this matter he had the sympathy of the Secretary to the Admiralty, to judge from the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman when the new scheme was introduced, and also the sympathy of the Prime Minister, and he hoped that they would have some assurances from the Government that the points which he had put before the Committee would receive their consideration. This question of engineering education had been dealt with by Sir William White's Committee. On May 22nd he asked a Question on the subject,† and the Answer he got from the Admiralty was that that report dealt with a scheme for the training of youths whose after-career and employment would be essentially different from the career and duties of a naval officer. Sir William White, in reply to a communication, wrote—

> "The Committee of the Institution of Civil Engineers made no inquiry into the best course of engineering training for naval officers generally. This inquiry, however, did cover the training of all classes of skilled engineers charged with the responsibility for the working and management as well as the design and manufacture of every kind of engine, including marine engines."

That Engineer Committee embraced Sir William White and the most distinguished members of the engineering profession, and it reported—

> "The average boy should leave school when he is about seventeen years of age. Much depends upon the development of individual boys, but the minimum age should be sixteen and the maximum eighteen years."

Further, the report recommended that there should be from six to seven years of training in engineering. But the Admiralty new system entered boys at thirteen years and provided for engineer specialists two years nine months. There was a very strong contrast between that report and the one presented by Sir Archibald Douglas. By the former Committee 267 witnesses were examined and all agreed. They included eighty-two mechanical engineers, thirty-two naval architects, shipbuilders and marine engineers, and thirty electrical engineers and thirty engaged in teaching. He found that the questions of specialisation young or old and for a brief spell or a life time were never asked of witnesses by the Douglas Committee and yet the Cawdor Memorandum, on making these great changes, claimed to be based on a thorough investigation by the Douglas Committee. He remembered the refusal of the Admiralty to give them this report when they asked for it and it looked to him what they call in slang language "fishy." The First Sea Lord's present naval assistant, Captain Madden, said the time to specialise was "on leaving the sea-going training ship"—a remarkable statement, with which he most emphatically agreed. That would mean at about the age of seventeen and three-quarter years, and was very reasonable. The Committee themselves appeared to have been in a helpless fog, because on page 54, after two years experience of the children at Osborne, they said—

> "We are now in a position to predict the general state of professional knowledge of the new sub-lieutenants when they arrive at that rank."

That meant that they were able to predict the state of knowledge which these people would possess eight years hence, and they were to watch and wait for that time. But at page 170, the Committee said—

> "It is impossible to foresee at the present moment exactly what progress will be made in engineering, etc."

These two statements contrasted showed that the Committee were hopelessly in a fog. Then this wonderful Douglas Committee took six weeks—indeed, but a little over five weeks—to report. They apparently were able to pursue their ordinary duties and to take evidence once a week, and they only devoted two days to the provision and duties of officers of the Navy, two to naval constructors, and one to the provision of mechanicians to the watchkeeping duties in the engine rooms. The White Committee took, however, two and a half years, and examined 267 witnesses, including engineers of eminence, while it had upon it men of the greatest engineering reputation. As a contrast to this he might mention that the Douglas Committee devoted two days to the two engineering questions submitted and saw six Admiralty engineers, two college ones, and two others. The witnesses were only asked questions upon some little point or other, and, from what one could gather, their evidence did not support the finding of the Committee. Only one engineer thought the new system engineers would be as competent as the present ones, but it came out subsequently that he did not understand the scheme. Engineer-Lieutenant H. F. Smith said—

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 547.

> "The scheme would give us inferior mechanical engineers who would not be able to direct the work of the artificers in a ship as well as the 'Keyham' cadets. They would not be so ready to trace a defect to its cause, or so competent to remedy it in the quickest way."

The next witness, Engineer-Commander Marrack, was very emphatic and expressed the opinion that a boy should specialise in engineering and remain an engineer all his life. On page 74 would be found the questions, but the great question the Committee should have been called upon to ask the witnesses was whether to specialise, young or old, for a short spell, or for a life time. These were fundamental questions and were very important. No executive officers were examined, however, and no engineer was asked these questions. Five marine officers were examined in one day, and the Royal Marine portion of the Committee and one naval captain pronounced dead against the scheme, and sent in a minority report. The first marine witness held such strenuous opinions that a portion of his evidence was represented by suggestive stars. He was on the subject of mutiny. He said—

> "You have to consider Trade Unions Socialistic and Republican ideas. . . . It is a fundamental principle of all armed forces that there should be separate units, one to keep the other in check."

However, he must not laugh at this witness, because he was asked and he did pronounce in favour of that life-long specialism for which he was contending. The next witness declared that the scheme would be the end of the marine force altogether, and that appeared to be the opinion of other witnesses. A third witness, Colonel Luke, thought that the marine officers would become specialised too old. The recent changes since his evidence made the specialisation at an even more advanced age. This witness, however, was decidedly in favour of the scheme, but believed the marine corps would disappear. The fourth officer also thought that the scheme would abolish the marine corps, and that the changes would be unpopular in the corps. The fifth witness also thought the corps would disappear. The minority report to which he had referred was signed by the representative of the marines and one other officer, and pronounced in favour of distinctive marine officers without engineering training, and significantly added that there would be a great saving in expense if the new scheme were abandoned. It also concurred in the unanimous evidence that the new scheme of training would result in the disappearance of the marine corps. He did not think the Committee or this House would like to do away with the marine force altogether. These were the people whom Lord St. Vincent called "the sheet anchor of England," and if one looked at statistics it would be seen that the cost of a marine was one-third that of a bluejacket. He was far better disciplined as the punishment returns revealed. As to results, moreover, so far as he could examine into the returns, it appeared that the marine was a better shot than the bluejacket. It was on the evidence of these witnesses, who were not really competent to deal with so large a question, and whose evidence was taken during two days, that all the structure of the Cawdor Memorandum rested. The Cawdor Memorandum contained a declaration in favour of late specialisation, and, as he had already pointed out, the country was, under Lord Tweedmouth's policy, to watch and wait for seven or eight years. The country was humbugged into believing that a great Committee had thoroughly vindicated the scheme contained in the Cawdor Memorandum. One of the reasons he objected to the scheme introduced at the end of 1902 was that it would give us amateur engineers and bad executive officers. The scheme provided for common entry, common training, and late specialisation at the age of twenty-three. The only point in doubt was whether what was meant was specialisation for a time or specialisation for life. When a previous debate took place on this point before the Douglas report was published he was found fault with for stating in opposing the scheme for common training that it had failed in the American Navy. There was no doubt that the scheme had failed, because the head of the American Navy had declared that under the system of common training the American Navy was unfit to go to war. The American scheme resembled ours, and the reason why it failed was that the officer who went down into the engine room still considered himself a possible Nelson, and always had his eyes on the bridge. He urged upon the Admiralty that they should thoroughly investigate this scheme; he thought it should be inquired into by a Committee of three. In his judgment the Committee which was supposed to investigate this question did not investigate it at all; in fact in his judgment it was a bogus Committee. It was, he thought, impossible for the Admiralty to claim that they had really investigated the matter, and he was sure there was room for real investigation. Motions had again and again been made for inquiries, and the Government had had the good sense to grant them. In 1874, on this very question of education, Lord Chelmsford proposed one in regard to the training of "Britannia" cadets and the Government granted it. In the fifties there was a Treasury Committee upon our naval strength. It was now said that an inquriy would cast a reflection upon the Admiralty. But surely that could not be said when without objection a Treasury Committee had sat and dealt with such a subject. Let them take the kindred service, the Army. It was the fact that a Committee of three, presided over by Lord Esher, had sat and investigated the whole question of the administration of the War Office. Therefore he thought that the whole argument about an inquiry being derogatory to the Sea Lords of the Admiralty could not hold water. They insisted upon the necessity of continuity of policy in the Navy, but how could they get it if they could not insist that the Sea Lords who were going to take office should be in favour of the scheme which they were about to carry out? They could not get continuity of policy with a hostile Navy. He had reason to believe that the officers of the Navy were almost to a man hostile to this scheme of naval training, and he noticed that Admiral Fitzgerald, who had held a responsible command in the Fleet, had stated in the *Naval and Military Record* on March 29th, 1905, his opinions on the subject. He said—

> "I could (if it were not improper) give the names of five admirals with their flags now flying who are most strongly opposed to the new scheme; and on looking through the list I have some reason to believe, though I am not certain, that about a dozen others with their flags flying are opposed to it."

When this question was brought forward in the House of Lords by Lord Goschen, who was absolutely hostile to the experiment and claimed that it was exciting widespread alarm afloat, Lord Tweedmouth said—

> "While he was ready to keep an open mind on the subject, he thought that there was not evidence sufficient to stop this experiment. They ought, therefore, to go on with it, in order to see what kind of officer would be produced in seven or eight years, and then judge by the result of the experiment."

That was the answer which the noble Lord got in regard to this point of specialisation which he was arguing; it was said that the whole matter must be put off for seven or eight years. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give some assurance that there would either be a Commission or that the Admiralty would come before the Committee next year and say plainly what they intended to do. The scheme was introduced at the end of 1902, and in March, 1903—in the initial stages of the scheme—the right hon. Member for Croydon, who then spoke for the Admiralty, said there was no necessity to consult admirals afloat, as the Board of Admiralty was competent to decide. But he contended that when a revolutionary change of policy of this character was contemplated, a change which admirals afloat would have to continue when they came to the Admiralty, it was necessary to get the opinion of the admirals afloat. The right hon. Member for Croydon had said in 1902 that admirals at the Board of Admiralty had no time to think out problems. Why, then, these revolutionary changes without inquiry? But, as a matter of fact, Lord Selborne did consult admirals afloat the previous year, just before he made this change. Then he made a speech in which he said he had—

> "the authority of admirals and captains fresh from the sea"

for saying that—

> "So far as the *personnel* goes, it is scarcely possible to improve the officers or the men. They say with extraordinary unanimity that subject to some improvements in detail, the general system of training young officers and seamen leaves nothing to be desired."

If that was so why change it? He had had the opportunity of consulting admirals and captains fresh from the sea. Then a new sea lord arrived at the Admiralty, and the whole thing was revolutionised. No change should ever be made in the Navy unless there was the strongest probability, almost amounting to certainty, that the change was in the right direction, especially if foreign navies had not made the change. The Selborne scheme, which was the scheme that the Government were still pinned to, was condemned by the Douglas Committee. Inefficient as the Committee was, it certainly brought out one truth in its Report when it said that when the time came for specialising late in life no officer would volunteer for engineering or the Marines, and that the consequence would be that they would have to be ordered to join these services. In the words of the Committee—

> "In neither case could we hope for the satisfactory performance of the duties of those departments."

This was an age of specialisation all along the line. In the Army the garrison gunners were cut off from the Field Artillery because the field was so great they could not cover both sections. But this system involved a far wider field. If they were to join the whole of the Artillery together and amalgamate them with the Engineers they would not have to cover so large a field as this. The Navy was travelling in a directly opposite direction to that in which the Army found it necessary to go. Speaking at the Royal National Lifeboat Institution on March 21st, Lord Tweedmouth said—

> "He thought Sir Edmund Fremantle was inclined to draw him into a discussion on naval policy. 'In vain was the net spread in the sight of any bird.' The Admiralty policy seemed likely to be the subject of somewhat lively criticism under present conditions, and he would be quite ready to take his part in it. He thought sometimes the handiness of the 'handy-man' was a little bit presumed upon, and that there was a desire to make him rather too much a 'jack-of-all-trades.'"

That was exactly what this scheme did. It said to an officer that he had to become an engineer, a marine, and an executive officer all in one. The Report of the Douglas Committee described the underlying idea by stating that—

> "Each of these officers would have special knowledge in one particular branch, but all would have a general knowledge of the duties of the other branches, and all would have the opportunities of fitting themselves for the position of captain of a ship, and thence of rising to the highest eminence in their profession."

That meant that if the engineer officer happened to be the next in seniority to the captain and the captain were shot down, the engineer officer would have to come up and conduct and fight the ship. How could that be expected of a man whose duties kept him below decks till he was thirty-seven years of age? These schemes were worked out beautifully on paper, but when it came to actual practice they could not be carried out. One of the regulations in the Navy List said that the navigating officers should go through courses of gunnery training, but he did not think during a period of thirty-five years more than two officers had gone through the course. Another regulation said that the Admiralty were particularly desirous that lieutenants should go through the senior officer's course at Greenwich and that facilities would be given to them, but never during the time that he was in the service did a lieutenant go through that course.

Only a few years ago the Admiralty issued orders that it was absolutely necessary for naval instructors to spend a period at sea, but the order was a dead letter. He submitted that what was needed in the Navy was that we should level up the engineer training of the engineers and that we did, to a great extent, and so stopped the water-tube boiler crisis; that we should level up training of the executive officers, and as regards gunnery practice that had been done. But the seamanship still left much to be desired. He noticed that in the year 1904 there were no less than seventy-eight collisions and groundings, or at the rate of three a fortnight. It would not improve matters to send officers to spend 30 per cent. of their time in the engine-room. Engineers' training was a matter of training the ear, the executive officers' training on deck was a matter of training the eye, and the Admiralty would find that out when the time of trial came and the officers were submitted to the great strain of war.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) said this subject was an extremely technical one, and one which appealed mainly to experts. He was afraid, also, that it was only too clear that in some cases the experts did not understand it. He did not profess himself to be an expert on naval education, but as he was a member of the Board of Admiralty which adopted and developed the scheme which the hon. Member had so unsparingly condemned, he desired to say a few words. He had studied this matter very closely, and while from time to time he had heard many criticisms made and arguments directed against it, he must admit he had seldom heard any which were so wide of the mark and so unjustified as those of the hon. Member for King's Lynn. This was not the first attack the hon. Gentleman had made on the new scheme of naval education. It was clear that the hon. Gentleman was an undiluted worshipper of the old system. He wanted things left as they were. The hon. Member had said it was a mistake on the part of the Admiralty to make changes before foreign Navies adopted them. He himself did not think the Admiralty should base their reforms solely on the practice of foreign Navies, as it had always been the privilege of the British Navy to give the lead in these matters. After all, what was the burden of the hon. Gentleman's indictment? He said in the first place that this system of entering the Navy was not democratic, and he proceeded to develop that by saying that there were certain classes who did not go to Osborn. But the fact remained that all who wished to be candidates were invited to come up before the committee and no distinction was made in the class from which they came. The old class distinctions that formerly existed between the engineer officers and the executive officers had been abolished and absolute social equality had been established. Then the hon. Gentleman had raised the question of the cost of education. That was a financial objection which did not interfere with the principle of the scheme. He himself had no objection to the cost to the parents being reduced, as far as desirable, or even abolished altogether. That was entirely a question for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was a consideration that only that right hon. Gentleman was competent to deal with and it did not in the least affect the principle of the scheme. The hon. Member then complained that the new system produced a class of officer with superficial acquirements and that they were jacks-of-all-trades and masters of none. That view was really based on a misunderstanding of the intention and actual working of the scheme. He saw with astonishment that even Lord Goschen, speaking in another place, had referred to—

> "The feeling of alarm with regard to the interchangeability which was to be the foundation of the future officering of the Navy."

The hon. Member for King's Lynn, speaking on another occasion, had said that the object of the scheme was to produce an officer who was able to do everything; and again to-day he had spoken as if the officers who would be produced under this scheme of education were required to be specialists in gunnery, torpedo work, signalling, navigating, engineering, tactics and everything else.

That was a pure illusion. The scheme provided nothing whatever of the kind. There was no interchangeability. There was merely temporary specialisation in one subject which the particular officer chose. It was estimated that about 60 per cent. of officers in the service would probably specialise, but not a single one of them would ever be called upon to perform the speciality of any other. Therefore, the charge that this scheme produced a sort of interchangeable jack-of-all-trades officer was a complete misunderstanding and was a creature of the hon. Gentleman's own imagination.

MR. BELLAIRS said he had read the extract from the Douglas Committee's Report showing that the officers were to be versed in every trade.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE said there were a good many points referred to by witnesses in the Douglas Committee's Report, but that Report was not necessarily the scheme of the Admiralty. The hon. Gentleman had claimed that the original idea of the new scheme of training had been abandoned, in that the original idea was that there should be permanent specialisation. He would, however, call attention to a speech made by Lord Selborne, who introduced the scheme originally, in another place in May 1903. The noble Lord explained very clearly that it was not the intention that officers should be permanently specialised under the new scheme. In that speech he expressed the belief and hope that engineers as a special branch would disappear altogether, and that specialised engineer-lieutenants would be only known by the letter E after their name. That entirely disposed of the charge of the hon. Gentleman, and the original condition under which cadets were introduced into Osborne was adopted solely as a precaution in case the scheme should not turn out so successfully as it had apparently done up to the present. The hon. Gentleman's next contention was that officers who temporarily specialised for engineering duties would not be as competent as they should be for executive duties. But he would point out that 40 per cent. of officers would not specialise at all, and therefore the hon. Gentleman's criticism could not possibly extend to them. These non-specialised general service officers as a matter of fact would have more experience of actual deck duties than their fellows to-day, and they would have also a good fundamental knowledge of engineering, which he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not consider a disadvantage in a sea officer. But, after all, the arguments the hon. Gentleman had used were very old arguments. They were advanced in times past against the teaching of navigation to executive officers. The extraordinary situation in which a ship could not go to sea because of the illness or absence of the navigating officer had, however, been got rid of. He could not see why, if there was no objection to an executive officer having an expert knowledge of motive power when that motive power was wind, there should be any objection to an executive officer having a knowledge of motive power when the motive power happened to be steam. We were rapidly approaching a mechanical age when a steam engine would no longer be a mystery to the rising generation. The marine steam engine of the future would be much more simple than the engine which preceded it. The introduction of turbines, which were to be put in all warships laid down since last October, would greatly simplify the problem of marine engineering. A knowledge of these engines could be acquired with much less difficulty than a knowledge of the reciprocating engines hitherto used. The hon. Member's contention that temporary specialisation in engineering or anything else would unfit officers for the command of ships or squadrons was one that was rather difficult to follow. The specialist period only lasted during the officer's term as lieutenant. Afterwards, nearly the whole of the specialist officers reverted to the general list and returned permanently to executive duties. A complete answer to the criticism offered on this point was afforded by the fact that at least 50 per cent. of the officers now in command of first class ships of war had been temporarily specialists, either as gunnery or torpedo lieutenants. The difficulties of specialisation in connection with engineering under the new scheme would be no greater than those attending the specialisation of gunnery and torpedo lieutenants. Moreover, if an officer did not show an aptitude for the command of a ship at any time, it was obvious that he would not get a command. Permanent specialists would be required for scientific work at establishments on land, and the Admiralty might find a new ally in matrimony. Officers conscious of inaptitude for the work required at sea might specialise for matrimony and shore billets. It had been said that the new engineer officers, Lieutenants (E) as they were called, would be inefficient under the new system. It was universally admitted that the engineer officers trained under the old system were generally efficient, but the Lieutenants (E) would have more engineering knowledge than the officers under the old system. The comparative figures regarding length of engineering training given by the hon. Member for King's Lynn were inexplicable and directly contradicted by the calculations made by the advisers of the Admiralty when the scheme was worked out. The best information the Admiralty could get showed that the Lieutenant (E) would be more highly trained than the engineer-lieutenant under the old system. Engineer officers under the new system, moreover, must all be officers who show a special aptitude and liking for that particular branch and they must have their hearts in the business, whereas under the old scheme there were necessarily misfits, who had merely entered the engineering branch because they had been unable to go into the executive branch; and who had no special talent for the work. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had contended that the new scheme was opposed by engineers generally and by the engineering Press. The *Marine Engineer*, on this very question in its issue of March 16th last said—

> "It is entirely inaccurate to say that the organs of the engineering profession are opposed to the new scheme, as their columns will show; on the contrary they regard it as a fine piece of constructive statesmanship."

Then this journal went on to quote the words of the late Sir William Allan, whose opinion was always very much respected in this House, and who made an unqualified eulogy of this system. He had had, during the last three years, considerable personal contact with Naval officers, not only in high commands but in command of ships, and he entirely failed to discover the widespread opposition and dissatisfaction with the new scheme which had been referred to by the hon. Member for King's Lynn. Although the hon. Member thought the scheme was bound to fail he might remind the Committee that the Board of Admiralty, backed up by its expert advisers, was of opinion that it was bound to succeed. He was glad to know that the present Board of Admiralty saw no reason to disapprove of or depart from the policy of its predecessors in this matter. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had said that what they wanted was continuity of policy. Well, they were getting it now. He had also referred to the case of the Marine officers, and he agreed with the hon. Member that that was more difficult. Many of them were men of great ability and high ambition, but they were obliged to remain comparatively idle in many cases, whilst everybody else were busy. They had no prospects and no responsible position on board ship. What an extraordinary situation it was when, with a great demand for lieutenants, they had 500 Marine officers who were quite unavailable for executive duties or for the general service. It was a most humiliating position for them and they felt it very strongly. Under the new scheme Lieutenants (M) would have a greatly increased sphere of activity, and they would be available as watchkeepers and carry nearly all the responsibilities of general service officers. They would also be specialised in military duties as well. He admitted that this was a most difficult question, but it was a far better solution for the Marines than the old system in which they laboured under such great disadvantages. The whole subject was necessarily a most complicated and difficult one, but at the same time it was one which formed the basis of the efficiency of our Navy. It was, however, a question which experts alone could properly decide, and it had received the fullest consideration of such experts as the Admiralty could command. The hon. Member for King's Lynn had made some unnecessarily insulting remarks about the Douglas Committee and the witnesses who gave evidence before it, but in his opinion that Committee produced a most valuable Report. He knew that the new scheme was condemned by the hon. Member for King's Lynn and others, whose literary abilities were far in excess of their practical professional qualifications, and whose opinion the Committee were not justified in accepting in the face of the opinion of the experts at the disposal of the Admiralty. The hon. Member had specially urged the Committee to reject the advice of the present First Sea Lord, whose energy and genius were well known, because he disagreed with him. He thought the British public were not quite persuaded that the hon. Member for King's Lynn was likely to be a better guide in these matters than the distinguished Admiral of the Fleet who had given the closest possible study to these matters for a great number of years, and who was doing brilliant service for the Navy long before the hon. Member was born. Moreover, the First Sea Lord commanded the entire confidence of his naval and civil colleagues at the Board of Admiralty. The new system, of course, had its merits and demerits, but it had come to stay, and it was working admirably as far as it could be judged. It was breeding up a new race of naval officers who in nearly all respects would be more highly trained, because they were being more scientifically educated, than their predecessors, and at the same time they were losing none of those fighting qualities which had always been pre-eminent in the Naval service. He hoped the Committee would not be led into the belief that all the attacks which had been made by the hon. Member for King's Lynn were well founded, or that any evidence could be produced to justify the Board of Admiralty in departing from this new policy which was showing such great promise of success.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the hon. Member for Fareham had spoken for the late Board of Admiralty and what he had said had materially shortened what he should have to say in reply. This was a question of education. The essential feature of the new system which had been attacked was a common entry of all candidates for officerships in the British Navy, whilst under the old system they had three classes of Naval officers. The result of the old system was a certain amount of want of unity between the three ranks of officers, and it was in order to avoid those difficulties that the new system was established. It was to meet that difficulty that the new system of common entry was established. It was true that he had objected to the scheme on the ground of early entry. He still held that view. He believed that early entry, however cheap the system of education might be, excluded 90 per cent. of the people of England from the right of sending their sons to be Naval officers. In that view he was supported by the Prime Minister and by distinguished Naval officers, but he admitted they were a small minority. Personally, he thought the Navy ought to be able to call upon the best brains, blood, and sinew of the country without exception. His ideal was the Japanese system, which admitted cadets to the Naval service up to the age of twenty, the only disqualification being marriage or bankruptcy. He confessed he did not see his way to get rid of early entry. The Board of Admiralty were united and progressive, and they had accepted common entry at all events. Under the new scheme there was common entry at the age of thirteen, when the boys went to Osborne. At the age of fifteen they went to Dartmouth. At seventeen they went on board a training cruiser for six or seven months. At seventeen and a half a cadet became a midshipman. After three years at sea, at the age of twenty and a half, he became an acting sub-lieutenant, and at the age of twenty-two and a half he became a lieutenant. Up to that point all the cadets had a common training. Then specialisation began, either as Marine officers, engineer officers, or executive officers. That special training continued during the whole period of lieutenancy, until the rank of commander was reached, at about the age of thirty-seven. Then, with certain exceptions, the three divergent lines converged again, and the great bulk of these specially trained officers were available for executive duty or any other duty. A certain number of them would always remain Marine officers or engineer officers.

MR. BELLAIRS asked how the officers were to be selected for special training.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said there would be an opening for voluntary selection, subject to the power of the Board of Admiralty to determine the branch of the service in which an officer should be trained. The difference between Lord Selborne's scheme and Lord Cawdor's scheme was that under the latter the specialisation began a year earlier, and, instead of being permanent, terminated when the rank of commander was reached. Lord Selborne's Memorandum undoubtedly stated that the choice of special training having been made or determined, an engineer would always remain an engineer, a Marine would always remain a Marine, and an executive officer would always remain an executive officer.

MR. ARTHUR LEE said Lord Selborne stated in the House of Lords that that was not the intention.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he was referring to the Memorandum. He was aware that Lord Selborne afterwards said in a letter that he thought an interchange of duties should take place. He thought they were all agreed that there must be common entry, and that specialisation must begin at some time or other. The only question was whether specialisation should be perpetual or should come to an end when the lieutenant reached the rank of commander. The oldest boy affected by this scheme was at present fifteen years of age. It might be twenty years before it was necessary to apply this scheme to him. Therefore there was time for consideration. Surely it was too early to prophecy and be dogmatic as to what was to happen at so remote a date. The suggestion of his hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn was that a new Committee of Inquiry should be appointed. He must decline on the part of the Admiralty to delegate their functions to any Committee. The line taken by the Admiralty had been expressed by him in introducing the Navy Estimates and by the First Lord of the Admiralty in another place. The Admiralty felt itself perfectly competent to come to a decision upon all the questions. Most of the recommendations of the Cawdor Memorandum were actually in operation or about to come into operation when the present Board assumed office at the end of December. Their policy in regard to the new system was one of watching and waiting. That attitude did not imply any doubt of the soundness of the system as to specialisation in its essential parts; but they held themselves bound to employ free minds and free hands in the settlement of the difficulties that must arise under the new system, just as they had arisen under the old. It was a very obvious criticism for the hon. Member for King's Lynn to make. "How can you assure that you will have as good executive officers in the future as in the past?" That was a question which wanted watching; and so in regard to engineer officers. He admitted that the case of the Marine officers was involved in exceptional difficulty and delicacy; but they were going to watch them all and give them a fair trial. He submitted that that was a sound and rational attitude for the Admiralty to assume. They had not initiated the new system, but they intended to give it a fair trial; and to do what experience might show to be necessary for its improvement.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that perhaps the hon. Member for King's Lynn would bear with him if he said, from very intimate knowledge of the matter, that his estimate of the cost to the parent of a cadet at Osborne was entirely erroneous. He himself would put it at less than £100 a year. With regard to the new system, it was intended by the late Board of Admiralty to meet the great and growing difficulty of obtaining engineers for the Navy. It was brought home to them that service in teh Navy would never be made attractive to engineers until all the emoluments and prizes of the service were open to them. Therefore, they decided to devise a scheme by which engineering officers would have the same opportunities of rising to the top of the Navy as any other officers in the service. The hon. Member for King's Lynn was under a misapprehension as to the position of the Admiralty in respect of the system adopted in the United States Navy. He had spent many hours on board United States ships and had had a conversation with the Chief Engineer of the Navy. The American system differed *in toto* from that adopted by the British Admiralty. It should be remembered that not less than 50 per cent. of the high executive officers of the Navy were officers who had specialised in torpedo or gunnery; and in his opinion there was nothing to differentiate specialisation in the engineering branch from specialisation in the gunnery and torpedo branches. There was, it was true, a certain amount of opinion opposed to these changes; but it must be remembered that they were changes which were due to an inevitable progress. The engineer officer had become almost the most important officer in the Navy, and the time had come when they could not keep the engineer officer out of the highest commands of the Navy. Masts and sails had gone, and therefore it was absolutely necessary to revolutionise the whole system of training, so as to give it an engineering instead of a purely seamanship quality. He hoped the Committee would not accept as true all that the hon. Member for King's Lynn had said about the feeling of the service. He quite admitted that there was a certain amount of difficulty and hardship when changes of this magnitude were made. But these changes were initiated in favour of progress. In view of the changed condition of things it was necessary to revolutionise the whole training of the Naval officer, and in the course of that process it was inevitable that they should find a certain number of officers to whom that change, however inevitable it might be, was intolerable. He believed, however, there was an amount of good will and power of adaptation in the Navy which would help them enormously in getting over the difficulties of the transitional period. With regard to the Royal Marines, he had never altered his opinion that the solution of that question was an entire alteration of the function of the Royal Marine Corps, and its development to meet the peculiar circumstances of a maritime nation. He believed that if the guardianship of our maritime stations were given over to the Royal Marines, the whole of the present difficulty would vanish.

MR. G. CROYDON MARKS (Cornwall, Launceston) welcomed the initiation of a policy to give a rank to the engineers in the Navy. The engineers under the old *regime* had no association with the officers and were looked down upon and snubbed. That was the reason of the failure to get men to enter the service. There were plenty of men capable of entering the service but they did not do so because they could get better positions in the merchant service and were there treated as gentlemen. To get over this the Admiralty had wisely determined that there should be no social distinction between the engineer and other officers, and had opened to the engineer the possibility of being something more than a workman by giving him a rank equal to that of a navigating or seamanship officer. By doing so they would make the service more attractive. There was a large amount of money set apart for training stokers to become engineers; but if they thought the engineering profession could be learnt by three years training by-and-bye they would have some lamentable failures and discover their error. A man-of-war was a mass of machinery, and the most important man in the ship when it was going was the chief engineer, but to oblige every man who went into the Navy to go through a certain course in the engine room, an experience which must be detestable to him, was a very peculiar way of training up engineers with a love for their business. An engineer must be a man of resource, and must know what was likely to happen the moment he heard a click. Did they think a stoker after being trained for a couple of years as a mechanician would know what a particular hissing meant? He would not know what had happened until something went wrong, because he had never had the experience and therefore could not foresee the difficulty. In his opinion the intention of the Admiralty to spend a large sum of money in educating men for the purpose of doing work which could be done by men drawn from outside the service was a huge waste of money and the result would not be satisfactory. The idea of taking a man who had been feeding the fires, at about twenty-five years of age and when he had lost his best powers of learning a new trade, training him as an engineer and putting him in charge of the engine room, was based on a misconception by the Admiralty of the duties the engineer had to perform. In engineering science there was no finality; improvements were always going on, and it was essential that the Navy should have engineers who knew what was being done and who were capable of adapting themselves to that which was new.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) said he was very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty say that he had an open mind on the question of this new scheme of naval education, and that the Admiralty would be allowed a free hand in the matter. The right hon. Member for Croydon had pointed out that the system had been introduced chiefly because of want of social distinction afforded to the engineer officers. That must have been mere conjecture, because when he looked at the report of the Douglas Committee he found that this vast change had been introduced into the Navy entirely because of imaginary social disabilities of the engineers. It was not entirely a question of the social disabilities of the engineer officers or the way in which they would perform their duties. Previous speakers had spoken of the enormous knowledge an engineer officer should possess, but the executive officer should have some knowledge as well; and the chief knowledge an executive officer should have was that of the leadership of men. How was an engineer who up to the age of thirty-five had passed his time in looking after the machinery of the ship to be expected to have the knowledge of how to lead men? The young executive officer, from the moment he was admitted, had to exercise that leadership and that responsibility which had made our naval officers such a force. A man who was kept below until an advanced age could not acquire the same confidence in the management of a ship. The report of the Douglas Committee showed that the new system did not recommend itself to the marine officers; the speeches just made proved it did not find favour with the engineers; and he believed the majority of executive officers were against it. It was to be hoped the Board of Admiralty would have some regard for the wishes of officers now serving in the Fleet and would proceed very carefully. The Government had said the new system would be given a fair trial, but if that trial was too prolonged great danger might result to the country.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said that he had not intervened in this debate before, and should not have done so now, but he thought the time had come when the whole system of Cadet examinations should be inquired into. Who, he would like to know, were the examiners who examined the candidates? Out of 588 accepted candidates who submitted themselves for examination, only two sons of engineer officers were selected. Only the other day he put a Question to the right hon. Gentleman upon this subject. He asked him for the names of the examiners who passed these 588 candidates, but the right hon. Gentleman took advantage of the Question being unstarred and gave information he had not asked for. In future he would star his questions and so give himself the opportunity of putting supplementary ones if necessary.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Does the hon. Gentleman complain that he has not had the names of the examiners?

*MR. WEIR said the question he put was would the right hon. Gentleman state the names of the members of the Admiralty Board who constituted the examiners. That information was not given. He could tell the right hon. Gentleman who they were. One was the First Lord, one his private secretary; then there was the Civil Lord, and there was one outsider. He should have thought that the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Civil Lord would have had far more important duties to perform than that of examining small boys. Matters were managed very much better under the old system, and he hoped the present system would be changed. It was a most unsatisfactory system. It was not a system of selection after open competition at all; it was a system of nomination pure and simple. That was not the way to get the best brains of the country. Out of the 588 accepted candidates for Osborne, to whom he had referred, instead of two there ought to have been something like eighty sons of engineer officers. He was not satisfied with the system and he was not surprised that the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who spoke with considerable knowledge of the subject, should have condemned it in the manner he had. Sons of the aristocracy were pitchforked into places because they had neither the brains nor the assiduity to stand the strain of a competitive examination, and so they were smuggled in in this fashion. Nelson would have been out of it if the present system had existed in his time. The doors were opened to the sons of aristocrats, too often wooden-headed ones, and favourites. He had always gone into the lobby, whatever Party had been in power, in support of the Navy, but he was anxious to know how the Navy was going to be managed in the years to come. How were they going to train up officers under the present system? They might just as well expect a man with a certain amount of knowledge to dig the foundations of a house, build it, do the carpentery, painting, and finish it throughout, and finally draw the pictures on the panels of the rooms. They did not find the railway companies doing what the Admiralty were now doing. Those who had the driving of the engines were first cleaners, then stokers and finally engine drivers. These men could not make the engines. The idea of puttting an expert engineer on the bridge of a man-of-war was absurd. It was impossible to get the best by the system that had been adopted. It was nonsense to think that because a man could turn a lever he should be able to take the machine to pieces or make a part if necessary. They would not get experienced men by this system. They would have Jacks of all trades to manage ships which cost a million of money. He observed that there was an increase of £16,560 in the training of Naval cadets. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to see that this increase stopped. If it did not he should move a reduction and go to a division another year. He wished to deal gently with the right hon. Gentleman, because the present Government had not been long in office. Those to whom the extravagance was due now sat on the front Opposition Bench. He also desired to ask the right hon. Gentleman to see that the ragging which went on in the Naval schools was stopped. He would call attention to the large number of withdrawals of cadets under the new system. It was a great injustice to the parents. All this was avoided under the old system of examination by the Civil Service Commission. Why should the boys be examined by an Oxford and Cambridge Board at double the cost? He was anxious that these boys should be examined by the Civil Service Commissions, and he hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would consult the First Lord of the Admiralty, and see if the present system could not be altered. They did not want the present oral examinations, which were only part of a system of jobbery under which boys were smuggled into the Navy. He considered that the whole system was unsound. Whether a boy was the son of a prince or a peasant he had no business to be smuggled into such a department as the Admiralty. He desired to see the Navy efficiently manned, and it was the future they had to consider. He wanted to ensure that twenty-two years hence the British Navy would be in efficient hands and not in the hands of wooden-heads. Why was this system of oral examination not stopped? Why did the right hon. Gentleman continue it? Everything was not well with the Navy, and this was the black spot in its management. He hoped some alteration would be speedily brought about. They must stop this detestable system of smuggling boys into the finest Navy in the world; they wanted the very best men they could get in the Naval service. There had been gross mismanagement in the Army, but the Navy was managed better. Looking along the vista of time he saw that they would have trained a class of Naval officer quite unfit to manage ships of war. He was very anxious for the welfare of his country, but there could be no confidence whilst things of this kind were going on under a system of favouritism and jobbery.

*Captain HERVEY (Bury St. Edmunds) said that as one of the woodenheads who was smuggled into the service at the head of the list some thirty years ago, he might be allowed to speak on this subject.

*Mr. WEIR said he had not charged the hon. Member with wooden-headedness.

*Captain HERVEY said that as he entered the Navy some thirty years ago perhaps he might be allowed to say a word or two upon the way in which the education of the Navy was now being managed. The new system and the way in which it was being tried was not properly understood. When so great a luminary as Lord Goschen in another place could say that there would be a state of complete interchangeability amongst the various classes in the Navy, and that a man might be an engineer officer one day, a gunnery expert the next, and a navigating expert the next, it might very well be open to others to make similar mistakes. They had been told something about the American Navy, and how the Americans had tried our scheme, and it had proved to be a failure. But was that so? Was the scheme of the American Navy the same as we were now trying in the British Navy? No, it was not. The American scheme did involve such complete interchangeability between the different branches of the service that a gunnery officer on one Commission might be an engineer officer on the next Commission. That was not what the Admiralty were trying to do. In twenty-two years time he thought the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty would find that none of the prognostications which he had put forward had any foundation. The training which young officers were now going through had been very carefully thought out, as anybody would realise who had read from cover to cover the report of the Douglas Commission as he had done. There were many points in that Blue-book which had not been dealt with in this debate at all, but as hon. Members desired to discuss them on other Votes he would not deal with them now. He had intended pointing out to the Committee what the real scheme was, but the Secretary to the Admiralty had done it so clearly that it was unnecessary for him to deal with it at any length. He would only say that he was glad that all officers were under the new scheme to have a good grounding from the time of entry up to the time of specialisation in engineering. He had discussed this education question with engineers, and he had learnt that their grievances under the old system were not at all confined to the social grievance. There was no social difficulty between officer and officer on board ship; and, as a matter of fact, many of the engineer officers had brothers in the executive branch. What the engineers had lacked was the opportunity of obtaining higher rank and comparative *status* in the ship owing to their not having executive rank.

Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) drew attention to the fact that there were not forty Members present.

The CHAIRMAN: I have so recently counted the House, that I do not see any necessity to count it again now.

*Captain HERVEY said similar grievances were felt by the marine officers who had never found employment as general officers. At the present time three marine officers had only 100 men to look after and instruct in marine duties; the consequence was that they had very little to do, and yet at the same time there was a great demand for more naval officers on board ships where these marines were serving. It was obvious that under these circumstances something had to be done. The Board of Admiralty, in starting this new scheme, had acted in a far-seeing and splendid way when they brought in the system of common entry. It had been said that these new officers would not be able to carry out the work required of them in the higher ranks in the service—that was to say, when they were promoted from the rank of lieutenant. He entirely disagreed. It was a good thing to get boys at the age of thirteen, just when they were finishing their preparatory school course and when they could with most advantage be started on a new branch of work. Then they entered with the clear understanding that they might be selected to enter into any of the big branches—marines, engineers, or executive. He believed that no difficulty whatever would be found in getting a sufficient number of young officers of the right sort to volunteer for each of those branches. It had been alleged that good men would not be got to go in as engineers or marines, because they would be looked down upon, but he believed that with better promotion and better pay the right sort would be induced to go into the different branches, just as in the past suitable officers had by the offer of better pay and earlier promotion been obtained for the gunnery, torpedo and navigation branches. As to the suggestion that they would not be able to train boys in the service for engineering duties to equal those now entered from the outside, he asked why they should not be able to do so. He believed those trained in the service would be every bit as good when it came to the final test. Under the new scheme they would be able to get rid of grievances which existed now, and he believed they would get just as good officers in the future as in the past.

*Mr. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars) called the attention of the Committee to an item of £750 for "Assistant Masters for Boy Artificers and Mechanicians' Establishment," and an item of £150 for "Assistant Masters for Mechanicians' Establishment." These items concealed the real cost which was involved in the training of the artificer class for the Navy. In fact these two items only represented an infinitesimal part of the money spent in the training of the artificers. He was told that there were something like twenty-five artificers withdrawn from their ordinary duties to undertake the training of the boys on the ships where the training was given. The cost of these men was £3,000 a year. There were also six artificer engineers at a cost of £1,000, three engineer lieutenants at a cost of about £700, and a captain commander, two engineer commanders, and five lieutenants at a cost of about £5,000. Altogether for the training of 400 boys and about 200 of the mechanician class the expenditure was about £9,000 a year. This did not by any means exhaust the matter, because there were charges for food and many other items, and he was probably within the mark in stating that the total cost was £20,000 per annum. He was told that each one in the mechanician class trained in the manner he had indicated cost about £600, and that to train a boy as an efficient artificer involved an expenditure of £1,750. What was the reason for this? Hitherto the naval authorities had drawn the artificer class from the ordinary civil life of the community, and it was on record that the naval authorities themselves had said that they got good and reliable men who performed their duties efficiently. It ought to be said, and they got these men for nothing. He wanted to know from the Secretary to the Admiralty why, if good men had been so obtained in the past, this change had been carried out. It had been said that it was necessary to give an outlet for promotion to the stoker class in the Navy. He did not want to say anything that would even bear the semblance of interfering with the natural and legitimate desire of any man to get promotion if his abilities warranted it, but he submitted that this project had been put forward not in the interests of stokers but as a set-off against the stokers' demand for increased pay. He had made inquiries in this matter not only from artificers but stokers as well.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is discussing a subject which could be much better discussed on another Vote. He can discuss the matter of education now, but he is entering on the question of policy which does not seem fitted to this

Vote. If I allow it to be discussed now I cannot allow it to be discussed later on.

*Mr. BARNES said it seemed to him there was not sufficient warrant for the change seeing that recruiting was going on fairly well prior to its being initiated. He hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would tell the Committee how the change had been brought about.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

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WIRRAL RAILWAY (EXTENSION OF TIME) BILL [LORDS] (By Order).

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. W. H. LEVER (Cheshire, Wirral) said he did not know whether he would be in order, but he wished to move after the Second Reading of the Bill, "That it be an instruction to the Committee to leave out Clause 8 of the Bill."

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member would not be in order in moving such an instruction because he has given no notice of it. The hon. Member for Birkenhead has given such notice.

Mr. W. H. LEVER said that the hon. Member for Birkenhead could not be present in the House that night and he wished to know whether he could not move the instruction in behalf of his hon. friend.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to do so by the Rules of the House.

Mr. W. H. LEVER said that in that case he must move the rejection of the Bill. It was a very unusual course, and he would not have done so if the matter had not been an urgent necessity. This Bill was similar to the Mersey Bill which was before the House last week, only it was more vital to the interests of the municipality. The opposition which he represented was that of the Wallasey Urban District Council, whose area of administration had a population of 60,000, a rateable value of £370,000, and an extensive tramway system which had cost £135,000 of the ratepayers' money. These trams ran from Seacombe to New Brighton and served the whole district extremely well. Parliament granted to the Urban Council the monopoly, and it was on the strength of the monopoly that the ratepayers had sunk their money in the tramway system. The Wirral Railway Company opposed the granting of these powers in 1899, but with no avail. Last year the Corporation proposed to extend their tramway system, and in addition to run motor omnibuses; and later the Wirral Railway Company promoted a Bill which proposed to give them powers to run motor omnibuses. Both these Bills came before the House of Lords Committee at the same time. It was a fact that the Chairmen of Committees, whatever their private interests might be, were undoubtedly perfectly fair and just in their dealings with all the matters which come before them. He did not want it to be supposed that he, or those he represented, had any cause of complaint with the constitution of the Committee of the House of Lords. They did their duty to the best of their ability. But the fact remained that the Chairman of the Committee was the Earl of Cawdor who was an ex-Chairman of the Great Western Railway Company, and he decided that the Bill promoted by the Urban District Council should be refused because the powers sought would enable them to compete with the railway company, and he passed the Bill promoted by the railway company although it would undoubtedly enable the company to compete with the tramways. He believed a matter which weighed with the Committee in giving the decision was an agreement entered into at the time when the company made the line down to Seacombe Ferry. That agreement provided that the railway company should receive one third of a penny for every passenger by the ferry who proceeded by train from Seacombe, and under that agreement the company had received some hundreds of pounds a year. But there were a certain number of passengers who did not book through, but paid their fare to Seacombe by the ferry and then walked to the station and rebooked. Of these passengers there was no record, and therefore no account could be rendered. It was entirely a matter for adjustment between the two authorities. The Wallasey Council had always acknowledged that the matter should be adjusted, and had always been prepared to adjust it, but they had not agreed with the company as to the method of adjustment. But to say that because in consequence of this agreement the company ran the line to Seacombe therefore, for all time, no matter what modern improvements were made, nothing must be allowed to compete with the lines seemed to be perfectly absurd. It never was intended by Parliament when they sanctioned the extension of that railway that because of that agreement the company were to have the sole monopoly of carrying over their line all the passengers that came across the ferry from Liverpool. Yet it was believed that it was because of the production of that agreement that the council's Bill was thrown out. The effect of the position taken up by the railway company was to prevent the council from extending their tramway system, and providing a service of motor omnibuses. It was quite obvious that if this Bill was passed municipalities would not be allowed to develop their tramway or other transit system, and it was mainly on that ground that he moved the rejection of the Bill. The promoters of the Bill claimed that they alone were to be entitled to use motor omnibuses, and they said that they would limit the carriage of passengers to and from their stations and hotels. Now they had no hotel there. He contended that it would be impossible to work Clause 8 as it stood. It was claimed by the railway company that the Bill, if passed, would enable a large number of clerks in Liverpool to cross the river and get home to their dinner. But he had studied the railway time tables, and had found that the journey to and from Liverpool to Seacombe and New Brighton would occupy every minute of the time given to clerks for their midday meal. No maximum fare for the omnibuses was provided for, although it was usual to fix the fare in the Bill itself. The promoters had been approached and asked to take a reasonable course, but they had refused to do so. Having beaten the municipal body and acquired a monopoly, they wished to be at liberty to fix such a fare as they as monopolists could obtain. The measure, moreover, although it gave power to the urban authorities to control the traffic, did not give that power to the rural authorities. Of course the Bill might be amended in Committee, but as it at present stood it did not give that power to the rural authority. He came to another point, and that was the damage which would be done to roads by this motor omnibus traffic. The Wallasey Urban District Council was responsible for the upkeep of the roads, and they would have to spend the ratepayers' money in maintaining them. Parliament had however refused them the right to have omnibuses of their own, but now the proposal was that that privilege should be granted to a railway company and that the railway company should have a monopoly in regard to the right of running such vehicles without any provision being inserted that they should pay a single penny for the maintenance of the roads. Moreover, when these omnibuses left the urban district they would go into a rural one, and who was going to pay for the upkeep and maintenance of those rural roads? The farmers whose land bordered upon the roads were not interested in this traffic at all. It might benefit the urban population, but so far as the farmer was concerned, schemes of this sort only mean taking snippets off his land here and there, and depriving him of the raw material by means of which he made his living. This Bill, however in addition to that deprivation, would force upon him the increased cost of the upkeep of the roads. In reply to that the promoters of the Bill said that Parliament had given the local authorities power to make extra charges for extraordinary traffic. It was very doubtful to his mind, however, whether within the legal decisions of the Courts this could be called extraordinary traffic. They all knew what the Courts described as extraordinary traffic, but whether that principle of contribution would be applied to motor omnibuses sanctioned by Parliament was exceedingly doubtful. The promoters of this Bill ought to have acceded to the very reasonable suggestion made to them, that they should make some contribution towards the repair of the roads, the use of which they would enjoy, and on which so far as the Wallasey District Council was concerned they would have a monopoly of this kind of traffic. It was doubtful what the powers of the council would be in regard to the licensing of other motor buses; it might be held that they had no right to grant licences on the ground that Parliament had granted this monopoly. He would like to know who was better suited to run these omnibuses than the authority who was responsible for the upkeep of the roads. And let it be remembered that if the Bill passed they would have established a precedent which would prejudice the Wallasey District Council in succeeding Parliaments if they reintroduced their Bill seeking powers to run motor-omnibuses. By passing the Bill they would endorse the action of the House of Lords, which had declared that if they once gave a railway company the right to run a line for the benefit of their own shareholders, then the municipalities must not be allowed to compete with the railway company. The promoters claimed that they and they alone should serve the public with motor omnibuses, and although they professed to be ready to insert in the Bill a clause limiting their privileges to the conveyance of passengers to and from their stations or hotels, in practice such a clause would be inoperative. This was a serious matter for all municipalities, as it appeared that the monopoly was to be given for all time, and without any reference to any new advance which science might make in regard to motor power. In this state of things he had ventured to take the extreme course of moving the rejection of the Bill, and he asked all those who were in favour of extending the powers of local authorities to embark upon municipal enterprise to support his Motion. He begged to move.

*MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland), in seconding the Motion, agreed with the Mover that the Bill raised a question of great interest to all municipalities. Speaking from the point of view of one who had been the Chairman of a tramway company for many years he would like to say that his objection to the Bill was confined to Clause 8, and he would rather have supported a Motion for its removal than one for the rejection of the Bill. He was, in fact, not concerned with other parts of the Bill Clause 8 stipulated that this company should be empowered to run motor omnibuses to carry passengers, passengers' luggage, parcels, etc. It might be argued that the Bill contained a provision which somewhat protected the municipalities in regard to the roads, but he did not think that that was so. If the House once embarked upon the practice of giving the railway companies throughout the country the right to run motor omnibuses, an inspector would be required in almost every street in which these motor omnibuses ran. Once this concession was given to railway companies they could not, as it was said this Bill would do, restrict the traffic to persons going to or from the trains or to or from their hotels. This was a question of interest not only to all municipalities but to all tramway companies, and he would give a case in point. A tramway company which he knew claimed the right to run a tramway for some six or seven miles, but a railway company opposed that Bill and said it was unfair that they should be deprived of their passengers. The House listened to the appeal of the railway company and rejected that tramway Bill. It thus appeared that while municipalities and tramway companies were prevented from running vehicles and affording public facilities the railway companies year after year came and made demands which, when other people made them, they opposed. He asked the House to negative this proposal in regard to motor omnibuses. If it was wrong for a tramway company or a municipality to run them it was equally wrong in the case of a railway company. The municipality had had given to them the control of the streets and had to keep them in repair, and therefore their views should be respected. Anyone who had anything to do with dealing with traffic in our large centres knew that they did not want to increase the traffic, but to decrease it as much as they could. He contended that the House ought not to give this railway company the facilities it asked for in view of the fact that the local authority had the responsibility of regulating the traffic and repairing the streets. In the case of the corporation, with a capital of £300,000 their Act made it obligatory that in thirty years the municipality must pay off that sum by yearly instalments of £10,000, and that being so, Parliament had no right to allow the railway company to step in and compete with a tramway company and thus prevent that condition being carried out. In taking the course he did he was not arguing against fresh facilities being given to the public; he was only pleading for fair play for the whole of the municipalities of the country.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. William Lever.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said that both the mover and the seconder had made out a very good case, especially with regard to Clause 8 of the Bill. He gathered that the mover would have been quite satisfied if it had been possible for him to have accepted the position suggested in the Motion of the hon. Member for Birkenhead, but unfortunately that could not be. He himself thought no case had been made out for the entire rejection of the measure; it would be unfortunate so far as the promoters were concerned if because hon. Members felt strongly against Clause 8 the Bill had to stand over for another year. He therefore proposed to take the only course it was possible to adopt, and move the adjournment of the debate in order that the Bill might come before them again, and that the Committee might have an opportunity of removing the objectionable clause. He moved that this debate be now adjourned.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Arthur Henderson*)—put and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

4. £165,600, Educational Services.

5. £65,100, Scientific Services.

6. £426,600, Royal Naval Reserves.

7. £482,200, Miscellaneous Effective Services.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £351,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1907."

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS VI.

8. £358,969, to complete the sum for Superannuation and Retired Allowances.

9. £122,644, Savings Banks' and Friendly Societies' Deficiencies.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

SUPPLY REPORT [26TH APRIL].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

REVENUE EEPARTMENTS.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £602,700, be granted to His Majesty, to

complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Customs Department."

Resolution agreed to.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,429,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Inland Revenue Department."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said upon this Vote, which amounted altogether to a sum of £3,212,000, there was one item to which he desired to call attention. If the House would turn to pages 10 and 11 of the Estimates they would see that there were a considerable number of items with regard to the salaries of the preventive officers in the Customs.

***MR. SPEAKER**: Order, Order! The Report of that Vote has just been passed.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somerset, Wellington) said he intended to conclude his observations by moving the reduction of the Vote by £1,000. Many members of the Opposition were very much interested in questions that arose out of the Votes for the Revenue Departments which had just been passed in Committee *sub silentio* without a word of discussion. This Government boasted that they were returned for the purposes of retrenchment. The best way of securing retrenchment was by full discussion in the House of Commons. The Government came down and told the House it was going to take the Naval Votes. Not a word was said about the Votes for the Revenue Departments of the Civil Service and all his friends believed like himself that nothing but Naval Votes would be taken. The arrangement had been broken over and over again this session. Having got the Votes they wanted for the Navy, and then without a word of notice to take the Votes for the Revenue Departments, to discuss which there was a desire on both sides, was a breach of courtesy and faith between the two sides of the House. He moved.

***MR. SPEAKER** said he could not put the proposed reduction, because he had already put the Question that the House agree with the Committee in the Resolution.

MR. McKENNA said they could quite understand that the right hon. Gentleman felt that a certain duty fell upon him. The right hon. Gentleman represented the Opposition on this occasion and they did not complain of what he had said except in so far as he had charged them with a breach of faith. What were the facts? A certain number of Navy Votes were put down, and had all been taken but one, which had been withdrawn at the request of a colleague of the right hon. Gentleman. There was no justification for the charge of a breach of faith, and nobody was more familiar with the business of the House than the right hon. Gentleman.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD: During the whole time I was Patronage Secretary I made arrangements invariably with the Opposition, and never broke a pledge or tried to spring a trap upon them.

MR. McKENNA said the whole House would readily agree with that statement of the right hon. Gentleman. But he had not charged the right hon. Gentleman with breach of faith. The right hon. Gentleman had charged the present Government with it, and he was endeavouring to show that the charge was not well founded. He had endeavoured to show the right hon. Gentleman that the discussion on the Navy Votes had been under discussion the whole afternoon, and the only Vote withdrawn had been withdrawn at the request of a colleague of the right hon. Gentleman.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley), said all that his right hon. friend asked was that the Vote should not be taken to-night, in order that at a later stage of the session further opportunity should be given of discussing Naval questions. He quite understood that there was to be a discussion to-night on Vote 12 of the Navy Estimates, and he himself was anxious to speak.

MR. McKENNA said the noble Lord could have had it; there was nothing to prevent the Vote being discussed. It was withdrawn in order to reserve it for a later stage of the session. That Vote and other subsequent Votes would have been passed *sub silentio.* They would now be discussing the Report of the Inland Revenue Vote, as to which nothing had been said, and as to which the Government had nothing to defend. The right hon. Gentleman asked for discussion. He could have had it on the Committee stage, but neither he nor his friends thought there was any ground for discussion, and he did not think there was any reason for delaying the business of the House any longer with these somewhat idle recriminations.

Question put, and agreed to.

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS II.

3. "That a sum not exceeding £7,290 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council."

4. "That a sum not exceeding £25,243 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission."

Resolutions agreed to.

5. "That a sum not exceeding £39,699 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor General."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth) complained of the speed at which the Votes were being rushed through, and said the House was entitled to some explanation of the increase of £494 for travelling expenses in the Department.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) pressed for an answer to the appeal of his hon. friend.

Question put, and agreed to.

"6. That a sum not exceeding £5,589, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies.

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £65, be granted to His Majesty, to complete a sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Mint, including the Expenses of Coinage."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £7,348 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Debt Office."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,430, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment

during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Public Record Office, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments."

Resolution agreed to.

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Establishment under the Public Works Loan Commissioners."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the expenses and salaries of legal officers of this Department could very well be saved, as there did not appear to be any reason why a legal branch was required to be attached to the Department. He thought that the major portion of the special expenses in this Vote could easily be saved. There was now in power pledged to economy a Government which had not hesitated to charge the late Administration with extravagance, and here was a chance for them to carry out their pledges. If this Vote could not be withdrawn next year, he hoped the House would have some assurance that the Government would take this matter into their earnest consideration, and bring up the Vote next year in an altogether different form.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick) asked how far the Government intended going with the business during this sitting. Very large sums of money had already been passed without a word of discussion.

Mr. McKENNA said he was not in a position to answer that question with any authority, but he was under the impression that after Supply had been disposed of there could be no other business taken.

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): Can the hon. Member give us a pledge that the Irish Education (Afflicted Children) Bill will not be taken?

Mr. McKENNA: Yes, I can give that pledge.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Can the hon. Member go on and finish the business to-night, and then adjourn for the holidays?

Mr. McKENNA said he could not do it. In reply to the hon. Member for West Derby he wished to point out that the Public Loans Commissioners were a statutory body, and what the hon. Member had suggested could only be done by an Act of Parliament. The officers whom the Public Loans Commissioners appointed were appointed by statute and exercised statutory powers, and the Treasury and their predecessors were quite satisfied with the work they were doing.

Question put, and agreed to.

SUPPLY [17th April].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

Class I.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £31,800, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Houses of Parliament Buildings."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that when this Vote was in Committee he pointed out that the mortality amongst Members of the House of Commons averaged about twelve per annum, which meant that about one every month was stricken down. Not long ago it was necessary to take one of their number across to the hospital. Every hon. Member who had had any experience of other Parliaments would agree that this Chamber was in many respects capable of being vastly improved. The House would not seat all its Members, and during a memorable debate a fortnight ago some fourteen or fifteen Members were unable to obtain even standing accommodation in the House, and even then some 17 or 18 per cent. of the Members were absent. If the Members were more comfortably provided for they would be able to do their business with a great deal more satisfaction. This was the only Parliament which had not a desk in front of each Member, and a convenient place to sit which the Member might call his own. The other day he was put to great inconvenience because the only place he could take some friends who had come to see him on business connected with his constituency was a smoking room upstairs which it was impossible for anybody to stop in long on account of the amount of smoke in it. Consequently they were obliged to sit for an hour and a half in a draughty corridor. He was told that two conference rooms were set aside for the use of Members and their friends, but as a matter of fact both of them were engaged at the time, and they were miserably inadequate for the purpose. There were many passages in the House which were duplicated, and surely some alteration could be made so as to provide more reasonable accommodation for Members.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said the House should carefully consider these Estimates in detail. The Party opposite was returned as a Party of retrenchment and reform and this was the first opportunity the Liberal Party or the Labour Party had had for fulfilling their pledges. But they—the Liberal, Labour, and Nationalist Parties—had adopted a conspiracy of silence and absolutely refused to attempt any kind of analysis of the Estimates. He wished Members to protest against these bloated Estimates, against which the Liberal Party had often spoken with burning eloquence from the public platform. The Estimates were either a mere farce or sham which ought to be voted in one solid block of millions at a time, or else the House should not laugh and sneer at any Member who rose to try to deal with them. If all the other sections of the House refused to analyse these Estimates and thus falsified the pledges they gave on public platforms, he was not prepared to go on fighting and struggling to criticise them. He left the responsibility to the Liberal and Labour Members. He washed his hands of any share in that deliberate conspiracy to squander millions of money at a single sitting without analysing the Votes.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) called attention to the bad ventilation of the Committee Rooms of the House, remarking that Members felt the atmosphere of those rooms to be very injurious. He did not know whether he should suggest it after what had occurred in the ladies' gallery recently, but he thought that so long as the ladies' gallery was kept open they might return good for evil and do the ladies the courtesy of having an annunciator in the gallery to let the occupants know who was speaking in the House. They all had lady friends, and he thought they would appreciate this concession. Sometimes eminent men were not known by sight to all the ladies, and when a Member got up it caused some whispering and talking behind the grille. It would be to the interests of the Members themselves if an annunciator was provided.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) said he did not suppose that the hon. Member for the West Derby Division of Liverpool would expect him, after an interval of only four days, to repeat all the answers to the questions he had put. When the Vote was in Committee he dealt with all the matters which the hon. Member had now brought before the House, apparently to the satisfaction of other hon. Members if not to the satisfaction of the hon. Member. What was required was a chamber reasonably suitable for the business they had to transact. There could be no better example than the state of the benches at present that this chamber provided ample accommodation for the purpose to which it was devoted when they were conducting really serious business. [AN HON. MEMBER: Especially on the Opposition side.] The hon. Member had drawn attention to duplicate passages in the House. He was not himself familiar with them, but if the hon. Member during the recess would conduct him through them, he would consider what steps could be taken to provide him with accommodation in them. The hon. Member for North Down took a different line, because he rather desired that the Government should exercise retrenchment on the Houses of Parliament Vote which would deprive his colleague the Member for the West Derby Division of the accommodation he wanted and other hon. Members of the indulgences for which they constantly pleaded. He had given instructions that something should be done for the better ventilation of the telephone room. Reference had been made to the ventilation of the Committee rooms. That had always been a great problem, for it was extremely difficult to provide for the rapidly varying conditions of those rooms. Exhaust fans had been provided in most of the windows. He would consider during the autumn recess whether anything more could be done to improve the ventilation of those rooms. The hon. Member for the Radcliffe Division of Lancashire had suggested that an annunciator should be placed in the ladies' gallery. He was afraid he could not promise to carry out the suggestion. Annunciators were noisy and expensive. They reminded him of what a lady once said, that everything she wanted in life was either unwholesome, expensive, or wrong. Annunciators cost £60 each to install and £40 per year to run. He did not think that the noisy clicking of an annunciator in the gallery would add either to the comfort of the Members of the House or the amenities of those auditors whom they were always glad to welcome.

MR. FLAVIN asked whether, for the convenience of hon. Members who had to meet friends in the outer lobby, a door which was now kept closed could not be made available in order that they might be provided with a shorter way to that lobby.

*MR. HARCOURT said that he had been instructed by the Cabinet to provide for a new method of taking divisions, and he had also been instructed to make a statement to the House on Wednesday next. The new system of taking divisions would come into operation immediately after the Whitsuntide recess. In this statement he would be able to say something about the opening of the doors of the division lobbies to give more easy egress to the outer corridors.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £48,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings, and for the maintenance of certain Cemetries Abroad."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the House should get an explanation from the Government why there was an increase this year of £13,700, or 15 per cent., on this Vote.

*MR. HARCOURT said that he had given an answer to that question within the last four days.

Question put, and agreed to.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,400, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1907, for Expenditure in respect of Osborne."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that there was an increase of £2,000 on this Vote compared with last year. He thought the House should be given some additional information as to the reason for this increase. There was also reason to complain of the manner in which Votes were put down on the Paper.

*MR. HARCOURT said that he had given an elaborate explanation of the excess in this Vote in Committee. It was caused by a re-arrangement of the electric light installation by which a saving of £150 a year would be made in the future. Some of the increase was also due to drainage improvements; and to the satisfactory or, in one sense, unsatisfactory increase in the number of patients at Osborne. The hon. Member had complained as to the order in which the Votes had been put down in the Paper; but that was an ill reward for his endeavouring to consult the convenience of hon. Members opposite. If the method of criticism pursued by the hon. Member was to be generally followed he would revert to the ordinary course of procedure.

Question put, and agreed to.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £426,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Customs, Inland Revenue, Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, and certain Post Offices abroad, including Furniture, Fuel, and sundry Miscellaneous Services."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he certainly understood that this Vote was not to be taken that night. At anyrate he knew that his hon. friend the Member for one of the divisions of Liverpool had given notice of a reduction of this

Vote, and he had been told that there was an understanding that it was not to come on that night.

*MR. HARCOURT: No, no.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he was not competent to explain to the House the points which his hon. friend was going to bring up; but he knew that in Liverpool the Custom House, the Post Office and the Harbour Office at one time were all under the same roof. The Harbour Office had recently been moved, and efforts had been made to induce the Treasury to build a new Custom House in place of the present antiquated building.

*MR. HARCOURT said that the hon. Member referred to had been in communication with him and was satisfied with the negotiations which were in progress. The hon. Member for the Derby Division was doing a disservice to his colleague and to the city he represented by opening this matter that night.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that they were grateful that the Treasury were in communication with the authorities in Liverpool in connection with this matter. He thought it would be generally agreed that Liverpool was entitled to a decent custom house.

*MR. WEIR said he wished to call attention to the very urgent need there was for a new post office at Stornoway. It was arranged three years ago that a new building should be provided as the present one was in a most insanitary state, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to look into this matter.

*MR. HARCOURT said he had been in communication with the Treasury on the subject, and had had the plans of the new building before him. But he thought that they were not sufficiently Scottish in design, and he had slightly altered them to suit the local colour of the town with which he might say he was as well acquainted as the hon. Member. He hoped that in conjunction with the hon. Member, the Department would be able to do justice to Stornoway.

Question put, and agreed to.

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £61,500, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £46,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Expenditure in respect of Royal Palaces."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £317,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

Resolutions agreed to.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Joseph Pease*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 25th May, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) [H.L.]. Gas and Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation [H.L.].

Also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Waterford Corporation and Bridge.

And also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with: Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill. Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; The order made on the 3rd instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged.

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]; Report from the Select Committee, that the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; the orders made on the 5th of March and 3rd of May discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next.

London and South Western Railway Bill. London County Buildings Bill. Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Peterborough Gas Bill; Read 2ª, and committed.

Southampton Gas Bill; Read 2ª, and committed for Tuesday next.

Newport Corporation Bill [H.L.] Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Alkali, etc., Works Bill; brought from the Commons.

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Manchester Corporation Bill; Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners.

Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [H.L.]; Milford Docks Bill [H.L.]; Mirfield Gas Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Holyhead Water Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Thornton Urban District Gas Bill; returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [H.L.]; committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª (according to order).

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report, Statistics, etc., relating to continuation classes and central institutions (Scotland) 1904–1905.

COMMERCIAL No. 4 (1906) (SUEZ CANAL).

Returns of shipping and tonnage, 1903, 1904, and 1905 (in continuation of "Commercial, No. 2, 1903").

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3597.	Morocco (Tangier).
No. 3598.	United States (Boston).
No. 3599.	France (Cherbourg).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Eleventh Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland, 1905.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of January, 1906.

SIGHT TESTS.

Report on the sight tests used in the mercantile marine for the year ended December 31st, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2558]).

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie upon the Table.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Amended prison rule relating to Prison Officers Fine Fund.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Two Orders in Council, dated May 11th, 1906—Exempting from re-measurement in this country, Italian merchant ships, and revoking previous Orders in Council; fixing the engineering establishment to be maintained in future by the corporation of the Trinity House.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACTS, 1878 AND 1889.

Two Orders in Council, dated May 11th, 1906—Approving new denominations of standard weights of twenty pounds, ten pounds, and five pounds; fixing the fees to be taken by inspectors of weights and measures on the verification and stamping of each of the above-named weights.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

Order in Council, dated May 11th, 1906, increasing the quantity of certain fireworks which may be kept on registered premises.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Two Orders in Council, dated May 11th, 1906, entitled—

The Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906.

The Federated Malay States Appeals Order in Council, 1906.

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870–1895.

Order in Council, dated May 11th, 1906, for giving effect to a treaty concluded between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua for the mutual surrender of fugitive criminals.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS BILL.

Read 1ª, and to be printed. (No. 101.)

MARRIAGES PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

[Second Reading.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Earl BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, as this is the first Bill of the kind which has been introduced into this House, it would, perhaps, be proper on my part to say a few words of explanation. Under an Act which was passed in the last session of Parliament by the late Government, it was provided that the Secretary of State for the Home Department should be able to make certain marriages, about which there was any doubt, legal under a provisional order, and the Act provided that a number of provisional orders might be made, that method being thought more convenient than passing a different Bill with regard to every set of marriages about which there might be doubt. Your Lordships will see in the Provisional Order Bill itself the churches to which it applies, and as the Bill has passed the other House without any Amendment, I venture to hope your Lordships will give it a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Bill read 2ª.

THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS.

*LORD AVEBURY rose to ask His Majesty's Government whether they had taken any steps to carry out the suggestion made by the Prime Minister in a speech on December 22nd, 1905, that as "the policy of huge armaments feeds the belief that force is the best, if not the only solution of international differences . . . it becomes one of the highest tasks of the statesman to adjust armaments to the new and happier conditions"; and, if so, whether there were any Papers which could be laid on the Table of the House.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, on the 22nd of last December the Prime Minister made an important speech in which he said—

> "I hold that the growth of armaments is a great danger to the peace of the world. The policy of huge armaments feeds the belief that force is the best—if not the only—solution of international differences. It is a policy which tends to inflame old sores and to create new sores, and I submit to you that as the principle of peaceful arbitration gains ground, it becomes one of the highest tasks of statesmen to adjust armaments to the new and happier conditions. What nobler *rôle* could this country have than at the fitting moment to place itself at the head of a League of Peace, through whose instrumentality this great work could be effected!"

The Prime Minister does not stand alone in his opinions. In one of his last speeches the late Lord Salisbury said—

> "Remember this—that the federation of Europe is the embryo of the only possible structure of Europe which can save civilisation from the desolating effects of a disaster of war. You notice that on all sides the instruments of destruction, the piling up of arms, are becoming larger and larger. The powers of concentration are becoming greater, and instruments of death more active, and more numerous, and are improved with every year; and each nation is bound for its own safety's sake to take part in this competition. The one hope that we have to prevent this competition from ending in a terrible effort of mutual destruction which would be fatal to Christian civilisation—the only hope we have, is, that the Powers may gradually be brought together to act together in a friendly spirit on all questions of difference which may arise, and till at last they shall be wedded in some international constitution which shall give to the world, as a result of their great strength, a long spell of unfettered and prosperous trade and continued peace."

Sir Spenser Walpole in his *History of England*, says of Lord Beaconsfield that he—

> "Saw more clearly than almost any other leading statesman that the strength of the country lay, not in increased armaments, but in its growing resources; and that, if these resources were squandered in time of peace, they will not be available in war. He declared, in a passage which ought to be inscribed in letters of gold, that the power to raise the income-tax in an emergency was a far more formidable weapon than any which increased fleets or armies could supply."

Unfortunately, we have now an income-tax of a shilling in the pound in a time of peace! In the last ten years we have increased our national expenditure by about £70,000,000, and our local expenditure by about the same amount, making a total increase of £130,000,000. Our population has increased 10 per cent., our indebtedness has increased 21 per cent., and our national expenditure has increased 30 per cent. Moreover, as regards local finance during the last five years, while our population has increased 5 per cent., our local loans have increased 34 per cent. and our local expenditure 30 per cent. Of course I only refer to the local figures just to show that the increase in our national expenditure is not counterbalanced by any diminution, but, on the contrary, is aggravated by an enormous increase in our local expenditure.

Evidently, therefore, the position is most serious, and the matter urgent.

Looking to the future, while I doubt not that as regards our civil and local expenditure much economy might be exercised, on the other hand there will be unavoidable increases, and I am not sanguine enough to hope for any serious diminution. The only important decrease which seems possible would be in naval and military expenditure. Ten years ago our naval and military expenditure was £35,600,000. Last year, without including extra receipts and other items which would largely increase the real amount, it was £66,270,000, showing an increase of no less than £30,700,000. My Lords, in making this enormous increase we have surely incurred a great moral responsibility. What should we have said it France or Germany had increased their armaments to the same extent? I rejoice, therefore, that the House of Commons has just passed a very strong Resolution, with which I cordially concur, in favour of a great reduction.

It is evident that the force which each nation requires depends greatly on that of other countries. But until recently we could not suggest any reduction with effect, because it was impossible for us to diminish our armaments. The case is now, however, very different. Of late years the increase in our armaments has been far greater than in those of other European countries, as for instance of France or Germany. Lord Beaconsfield spoke of our bloated armaments. I do not know what terms, even in his rich vocabulary, he would find graphic and strong enough to describe them now. Moreover, they are not only a gigantic expense, but a danger to peace, and indefinitely increase the risk of war. It is often said that this enormous rise has been forced on us by the increases in the armaments of foreign Powers. Those who lie under this impression have evidently not looked into the facts. In the last ten years Italy has increased her naval and military expenditure by £1,500,000; France by £6,000,000; Germany by £8,700,000. Our increase during the same period has been over £30,000,000—something like double that of France and Germany put together!

In one of his most interesting speeches Mr. Balfour attempted to show, and I think did show, that any invasion of this country was hopeless. I do not, however, base my argument on this. There can be no doubt that European nations, including ourselves, are all greatly overburdened with taxation. The statesmen of Europe do not seem to realise how closely the interests of different countries are bound together. This is especially true in our case. We have immense investments all over the world. Our merchants are in all lands; we have built the railways almost all over Europe, and indeed in almost all countries, with of course some exceptions, of which the United States is the most important. The Russo-Japanese war has, indirectly, cost us millions. The late Lord Derby once said that the greatest of British interests is peace. And so it is, not merely that we should be ourselves at peace with other countries, but that they should be at peace one with another. In fact, the interests of nations are so interwoven, we are bound together by such strong, if sometimes invisible threads, that if one suffers all suffer; if one flourishes, it is good for the rest.

From another point of view, however, the interest of other countries is even greater than ours. The pressure of taxation, heavy in this country, is even more serious and severe in others. The time seems very suitable for some such action. Russia requires rest to recover from the ruinous losses of the last war. She has to choose between economy and bankruptcy. Moreover, has not the Emperor summoned the Hague Conference? France is friendly; she knows that we are her best customer; we take one-third of all her exports, and it is most important for her that we should be prosperous and able to purchase her wine and her silks. Italy, certainly, is not for war; and Austria to her honour, has long been an influence making for peace. As to Germany, I can speak for all the great commercial cities. They know, as we do, that the main interests of Germany are the same as ours; that peace is most important for each of us; and that war, however it might end, would be disastrous to both. Moreover, the unrest in Europe, the spread of socialism, the ominous rise of anarchism, is a warning to the Governments and governing classes that the condition of the working classes in Europe is becoming intolerable, and that if revolution is to be avoided some steps must be taken to increase wages, reduce the hours of labour, and lower the prices of the necessaries of life.

These objects can only be effected in one way, by reducing the military and naval expenditure. Both they and we have to consider, not merely the direct, but the indirect, effect of these enormous armaments. The anxiety and uncertainty created necessarily tend to paralyse industry and drive manufactures into more peaceful regions. The late Mr. E. Atkinson, the eminent American economist, said—

> "The burden of national taxation and militarism in the competing countries of Europe, all of which must come out of the annual product, is so much greater that, by comparison, the United States can make a net profit of about five per cent. on the entire annual product before the cost of militarism and the heavy taxes of the European competitors have been defrayed. Such is the burden of militarism which must be removed before there can be any competition on even terms between European manufacturers and those of the United States in supplying other continents and in sharing in the great commerce of the world."

Moreover, since he wrote, the burden of militarism has become much more onerous. Let me ask your Lordships to consider the relative positions and policies of America and Europe. I do not say that America is employing her time and manhood to the best advantage. Her fiscal system is devised to check the use and cultivation of her millions—not of paltry acres, but of square miles of virgin soil, in order to encourage the development of manufactures which she could purchase more economically from us; she endeavours to divert her people from the natural and healthy life of the country, and concentrate them in great cities. These mistakes, no doubt, are retarding—they cannot prevent—her progress.

But what are we doing in Europe? We have, no doubt, some great advantages. Europe ought to make hay while the sun shines. We have no reserves of virgin soil. Our coal will not, indeed, be exhausted just yet, but we have to go deeper and deeper for it, so that it becomes more and more expensive; our tin is practically exhausted, our copper approaching an end, even our iron ores are not inexhaustible. Under these circumstances we ought to be laying up for the future. So far from this, Europe is a great military camp, always under arms; we have no peace, only an armistice; eternal war with unlimited expenditure, only, happily, without bloodshed. But the result is that instead of accumulating capital for our children, we are piling up debt; instead of bequeathing them an income, we are leaving them overwhelming responsibilities.

Look at the contrast between Europe and America. The United States have a population of 90,000,000. That of Europe is about 350,000,000, nearly four times as great. The area is about the same, but the expenditure of Europe on armaments is over £250,000,000 sterling, that of the United States is £40,000,000, and the number of men under arms is 4,000,000 against 100,000 in the United States, or forty times as great. It is obvious, therefore, that our European manufacturers are heavily handicapped as against those of the United States, and, unless something is done, will be so more and more. Our expenditure on the Army, which ten years ago was under £18,000,000, is now over £29,000,000, showing an increase of over £11,000,000, or more than half as much again. Surely we might here make a great reduction.

As regards the Navy, Mr. Lefevre, in a very interesting article in the *Contemporary Review* for February, gives the effective strength of our Navy as in round numbers, 1,050,000 tons, that of France being 398,000, and of Germany 286,000, so that our strength is, in round numbers, 370,000 tons more than that of France and Germany combined. *The Times* also recently published (April 23rd) a most interesting article on the German Navy. The result they came to was that after making all reasonable allowances—

> "The overwhelming superiority of British Naval strength to that of Germany remains incontestable."

Now all three nations are going to an enormous expense, and if our respective programmes are carried out the results will be:—Great Britain, 1,928,000 tons; France, 779,000; and Germany 744,000; giving us a surplus of 400,000 tons. We shall have added 880,000 tons and they will have added 840,000, and our respective positions will be almost the same as they are now. What portentous, I might almost say what wicked, waste! Russia, I understand, is about to spend

£50,000,000 on her Navy. If she joined in some arrangement she might save half of the outlay; and how much better this would be for her. Surely we might agree on reductions which would leave our relative strength unaffected, and save all three countries many millions of money, besides an immense annual diminution of expense. Moreover, as the late Lord Salisbury wisely pointed out, these gigantic armaments greatly increase the risk of war. This seems rather a matter for amicable arrangement between the four countries than for The Hague Conference.

I have dealt hitherto with the question from a material and business point of view. But it has another and higher aspect. The present position of Europe is a disgrace to us, not only as men of common sense, but as professing Christians. If the suggestions thrown out by the Prime Minister are accepted, it would be an enormous boon to the people of Europe; it would, I believe, save the Continent from drifting into revolution and misery. To us in England, if perhaps to a slightly less extent, it would also have most beneficial consequences. It would diminish the burden of taxation, it would lighten the hours of labour, it would raise wages, and lower the price of necessaries. Of course, it is possible that our overtures might be rejected. But, even if they are, we shall feel that we have done our best. We shall have held out the olive branch; it will be a failure, but an honourable, even glorious, failure. I do not, however, entertain such a fear. I have too much confidence in the common sense and conscience of Europe. And if we succeed, it will be one of those cases in which peace has its victories as well as war, and we shall confer an incalculable boon, not only on our own people, but on the whole world.

THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON: My Lords, I think no apology is due on my part for venturing to intervene on such a subject as this. The noble Lord who brought it forward dwelt, as he had a right to do, upon the grave commercial and financial burdens which are closely associated with the armaments of Europe, and he reminded us that these burdens pressed heavily on all industries and produced that apprehension and mutual suspicion which I think will be admitted on all sides to be one of the great causes for the apparent failure, as it were, of commercial success. For nothing, I understand, is so sensitive as capital, and nothing is so likely to effect the sensitiveness of capital as the existence of mutual suspicions and alarms.

But I venture to enter on this question from a different standpoint, for I cannot pretend to possess what the noble Lord possesses in such a high degree, a deep and large acquaintance with the financial and fiscal aspects of the question. I always find myself on this question in the position of not being able to agree with the extremists on either side. It so happens that on all questions where human beings feel strongly there will be those who are inclined to look only from one standpoint, and therefore to exaggerate the value of the particular standpoint which they adopt. There are those who clamour at all times for what is called "Peace at any price." I venture to say that I cannot identify myself with those. It seems to me that whatever view one takes of history or of existing conditions no man can look back or look around without seeing that it is quite conceivable that cases may arise in which war may be necessary.

Facts are stern things, and it becomes men who possess common sense to face facts; but the facts, stern and strong as they are, are allied with something else, and that is the recognition that there does often come a time in the history of nations when the nation has to choose the lesser of two evils, and when all brave men accept war as the lesser of two evils. Not one of us will do other than endorse that view when we recall the struggles of Holland in the days of Spanish tyranny. There are many who will say that the condition also applies to the sanguinary struggle between the Northern and Southern States of America; and who can doubt but that England did good service to the civilised world when she withstood the Napoleonic tyranny?

There are events in the history of the world when the soldier who has stood in the front of the battle field has not merely been a patriot but a citizen of the world and a protector of on-coming civilisation. Just as I recognise that there may be circumstances in which war is necessary, so I readily recognise that it is the bounden duty of all upon whom national responsibility devolves to protect the interests of the nation committed to their care and to have due regard to the sufficiency of armaments. It would be unwise, nay, would it not be almost criminal, to forget these natural and necessary considerations which are needful to make protection sufficient? Therefore I for one would venture to say all honour to that patriot soldier who goes about among his fellow countrymen and says, "It is indispensable, if you are to maintain your freedom and your present position, that you should be adequately and efficiently armed."

But, while I make these admissions, I would also say that these two positions do not cover the whole question. It may be true that war is sometimes necessary, and it may be the duty of Governments to take care that the armaments are sufficient; but there is another aspect wider than that of merely national interest, and it is the aspect of the duty which a nation owes to the world at large and the duty which every civilised and intelligent Government owes to the progress and advance of civilisation. Life is not merely made up of stern facts; and while we are obliged, from the standpoint of stern facts and common sense, to admit the great possibilities of risk and peril, that is no reason why we should fall into what I may call the prosaic error of forgetting that we are gifted with the power of foresight and have imposed upon us the duty of preparation for the great future which we hope, through our instrumentality, may be more pleasant than the period in which our lot is cast.

There is such a thing as an ideal aspect of the world, and it is to the ideal that our attention should be constantly directed. The statesman no less than the artist needs to be sustained by ideal considerations. If we think of the ideal, may we not picture to ourselves an age when these armaments will no longer be necessary, and when, instead of withdrawing one out of every five of the real breadwinners to stand as an armed soldier and therefore rendering him a non-producer from an economic point of view, the standing armies and navies should be reduced to a kind of minimum which would represent only the necessary police, as it were, of the world? The industries of the world would then flourish, its productive power would then increase, and in every hamlet, as in every land, there would be a sense of security, peace, and happiness.

It is an ideal picture. I venture to say there are three ways in which we may treat an ideal. We may treat it with the enthusiasm of those who forget facts and begin to live as if the ideal age had come. On the other hand, are they any wiser who disdain the ideal altogether and live simply in the presence of hard facts? Surely the true way of dealing with an ideal is to say that, as God has given to every man a place in the world where his character is formed by experience and the stern discipline of facts, so also is man endowed with the means of conceiving an ideal towards which he can work. There is in every artist's mind the picture which never was painted and never will be painted. So there ought to be in the mind and imagination of the statesman an ideal picture which, perchance, may never be painted in his time, but which, nevertheless, will form the standard towards which he desires to approximate, and towards the realisation of which he desires to lead the people entrusted to his care. Thus I say that the ideal stands for much, and in this case it is a thing towards which approach has been made.

Public opinion has pronounced over and over again in favour of the settlement of national disputes by arbitration, by the mediation of a friendly nation, or by the inclusion in treaties of clauses which afford the opportunity of consideration when questions of friction and dispute arise. Almost every legislature in Europe has passed a resolution in favour of something of the kind. Not only in England in 1873, but in Italy, in Sweden, in the United States of America, in Holland, and in Belgium within the two or three short years between 1873 and 1875 resolutions were passed in favour of this, and later other nations followed suit. Though wars were numerous in the last century, yet it remains true that a great many have been averted by arbitration. Between 1820 and 1830 there were only three cases in which disputes were settled by arbitration; but I think I am right in saying that between 1880 and

£50,000,000 on her Navy. If she joined in some arrangement she might save half of the outlay; and how much better this would be for her. Surely we might agree on reductions which would leave our relative strength unaffected, and save all three countries many millions of money, besides an immense annual diminution of expense. Moreover, as the late Lord Salisbury wisely pointed out, these gigantic armaments greatly increase the risk of war. This seems rather a matter for amicable arrangement between the four countries than for The Hague Conference.

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1890 there were as many as twenty-one. The movement has been accepted and the principle applied to such cases as the Duchy of Luxembourg, the Alabama claims, Crete, the Alaska boundary, and recently there was the Algeciras Conference. The instinct which found expression in the Resolutions of the Legislature has found confirmation in the practical action of the civilised nations of the world, so that the ideal to which I have referred is a thing towards which men with patient steps are slowly advancing.

What is more remarkable still is the fact that clauses in treaties arranging for arbitration in cases of dispute have shown the determination of nations to provide, if possible, against anything like a hostile outbreak. Wars often arise from the sensitiveness of national honour, but, if a nation has committed itself beforehand to an arbitration clause in a treaty, then it stands consonant with its honour that it shall first consider, and it is not as it were urged on to war by a sense of honour, but honour stands in the way of war, and to have brought honour on the side of peace is no small achievement. It does more. It gives that invaluable factor in all questions of dispute—time for consideration, during which those extravagant passions may cool down which in themselves are a source of peril to international peace.

In the attitude we are taking up we stand hand in hand with men of wise judgment and wide experience. The noble Lord who initiated this discussion quoted what the late Lord Salisbury said, and it is true that he pointed out to those whom he addressed at Hastings in 1892 that just as the system of settling quarrels by duels had been put an end to, so it would be the duty of nations to see that, by methods of international understanding, international wars were put an end to. In the same sense the present Prime Minister has spoken. And in so speaking these statesmen ranged themselves alongside the philosophers of the world. In other words, we have on our side philosophers who have reflected deeply on the matter, statesmen who have had practical experience, and the legislatures of the world who have pronounced in favour of arbitration

If it is true that there has been an approximation to the realisation of the ideal, upon whom does the responsibility rest to carry forward the movement? I venture to say, without any hesitation, that the responsibility falls with its heaviest weight upon those great nationalities which are most deeply imbued with the ideas of the highest civilisation. The world is made up of nations in various stages of growth. To some, ideals of this sort would be quite impossible, but when we remember those nations to which the noble Lord who introduced this subject alluded, when we remember the United States of America, when we remember Germany, when we remember France, when we think of our own country—do we not realise that every one of these countries has been inter-penetrated with what I may call the highest and noblest ideas of civilisation? Are not these the nations, then, to lead the way? If they have led the way in the civilisation of the world is it not for them to lead the way also towards the realisation of that age of peace by inaugurating, if it be possible, some League of Peace?

In 1902 an American professor had an interview with a German historian, and the subject of discussion was the importance of a friendly understanding between Germany, America, and England, and as the American professor was leaving the presence of the old historian he said to him—

> "Preach that doctrine far and near whenever and wherever occasion allows."

That is the sentiment I should like to hear from all those upon whom the responsibility of government rests. Every civilised nation should endeavour, as far as possible, to preach the doctrine of a friendly understanding with the other nations of the world. In this way we shall be able to realise in its noblest sense the ideal of which I have spoken. It may not be that the present generation shall see the dawn of the golden age of perpetual peace, but we shall see at least men drawing nearer one to another, prejudices disappearing, and such a consciousness of peace and security falling upon the minds of the people that, although war may not be altogether abolished, men may sit down by their vines and their fig-trees with the certainty of enjoying a prolonged peace.

*LORD SANDERSON: My Lords, before the noble Lord the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs replies to the Question addressed to him, I think it may not be inconvenient to him that I should say something of the more recent diplomatic history which has come under my own experience. It will relieve him of a somewhat unpleasant task, because it is not very encouraging. In 1898, the Emperor of Russia addressed a Circular to all the Powers proposing a Conference for the purpose of considering means of securing peace and of reducing or limiting armaments. All the Governments, I believe, replied in a sympathetic manner, but during the few months which elapsed before the meeting of the Conference several of them, including the Russian Government itself, made a not inconsiderable increase in their already large armaments. Whether they did that in order to have something to reduce upon I do not know, but reduction did not follow.

The Conference met and appointed three Commissions, one of which was to examine the methods of limiting or reducing armaments. A number of proposals were made to that Commission; they were carefully examined, but in the end the Conference was unable to adopt any of them. It was found impossible to devise a formula which should be free from ambiguity and apply fairly to all Powers alike, and it was found equally impossible to devise means of ensuring the observance of any agreement without an amount of control and interference to which few, if any, of the Powers were inclined to submit. The Conference, therefore, was compelled to content itself with recommending the subject to the consideration of the Governments concerned as one of great importance to the moral and material welfare of the human race.

I am not aware that the consideration which the Governments were able to give to it have led to any practical results. I think if you look at these large armaments you will find that they are not so much the consequence of any conscious aggressive intentions as of a general feeling of insecurity, of an impression that Europe is in a state of what is scientifically called unstable equilibrium, and of a determination to be prepared for all risks. The German military delegate at the Conference summed up the matter by saying that each country had created its own system of national defence in accordance with its history and traditions and its geographical situation, and that it would be very difficult to substitute an international agreement for these purely national institutions. It seems to me that this impression of insecurity cannot be removed merely by diplomatic assurances.

Something has been done by The Hague Conference, because it facilitated the means of referring international differences to mediation and arbitration. It is only seven years since that Conference terminated, and seven years is a very short period in the history of nations; but already those methods have been used on more than one important occasion and with signal success. I do not myself see how any further step in advance can be taken without a strong national movement in some, at least, of the more important military countries towards a reduction of armaments and practical proofs of peaceful intentions, and some evidence of the earnestness and the permanence of that feeling. Whether the time is yet ripe for that it is difficult to say. I feel that we may confidently leave the matter in the hands of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whose calm, firm, unobtrusive policy has already rendered such important services to the cause of European peace.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, my noble friend opposite has asked me, as representing the Foreign Office in this House, whether His Majesty's Government have taken any steps to carry out the suggestion made by the Prime Minister in a speech on December 22nd last year, with regard to the policy of huge armaments, and, if so, whether there are any Papers which can be laid on the Table of the House. In the first place, I would point out that the first sentence in the speech of the Prime Minister to which my noble friend has called attention is simply the statement of a fact which, alas! none of us can deny—namely, that the existence of these enormous armaments in Europe does feed and encourage the belief in the minds of the people of the world that force is the remedy which must be looked to for the settling of international differences. Therefore I am not inclined to think that any debate would be likely to arise in regard to that, taken as an isolated proposition. It is rather when we come to the second half of the extract which my noble friend has placed upon the Paper that we enter upon the ground of actual politics and debate.

My noble friend asks me whether His Majesty's Government, in the short time in which they have been in office, have been able to take any actual steps towards realising a better condition of things with regard to armaments than now exists in Europe. In reply, I would in the first place remind your Lordships that the speeches made by Ministers when the Army and Navy Estimates were placed before the House of Commons, and the Budget statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, clearly show that the mind of His Majesty's Government has already been turned to this question. It is our hope—indeed it is our confident belief—that next year, unless events take quite an unlooked for and unfavourable turn in Europe, we shall be able to propose some reductions in expenditure, by means of changes in war establishments, which may tend somewhat in the direction of the wishes of the noble Lord. As a matter of fact, the Naval Estimates—and this is not owing to the policy of His Majesty's Government alone, it is quite as much due to the policy of their predecessors in the last eighteen months of their period of office—the Naval Estimates, as compared with those of two years ago, show a large and substantial reduction, a reduction of, I think, something like £5,500,000. Of course, it is not to the representative of the Foreign Office in this House that your Lordships look for information as to details.

My noble friend Lord Sanderson, to whom everyone who has been at any time connected with the work of the Foreign Office owes such great obligations, and who spoke with an unrivalled experience of affairs, indicated some of the difficulties which have so often driven those who aim at the ideal in this matter back on to the hard rocks of the practical. It has seemed to me, looking back over the history of this very attractive question, that the cause of disarmament has suffered at different times from certain difficulties which, till comparatively recently, seemed to make progress almost hopeless. There was at first a tendency on the part of those who urged schemes of disarmament to evolve their plans in such forms as to bring upon themselves the reproach of being unpractical men, and in consequence the cause of disarmament and of arbitration fell into evil repute.

The right reverend Prelate alluded to schemes of great and eminent men in Germany. I am not, perhaps, alluding to these so much as to those plans of universal disarmament which were very frequently put forward at the time of the French Revolution, and put forward under circumstances which could not appeal to this country. When, for example, the once celebrated Abbé Gregoire invited the French Convention to declare that—

> "A nation should act towards others as she desires that others should act towards her;"

and that—

> "The individual interest of a nation is subordinate to the general interest of the human family,—"

it was not possible for persons then living in England to overlook the fact that the countrymen of Abbé Gregoire were engaged at that time in a war with this country, and were doing their best to annex the territory of their neighbours; and therefore they were inclined to think that the worthy Abbé might have kept for domestic consumption, or, at any rate, applied his proposals at home before inviting other nations to join in them.

Then there has always been the difficulty to which my noble friend who spoke just now alluded—the difficulty of finding what may be called a unit of disarmament. This is a military question, and I would like to read to your Lordships a short extract from a speech by Colonel Gross de Schwarzhoff, the German military representative at the Hague Conference, which is to be found in the Blue-book on the Peace Conference which was laid before your Lordships' House. Colonel Gross de Schwarzhoff said—

> "He considered that the question of effectives could not be discussed by itself as there were many others to which it was in some measure subordinated, such, for instance, as the length of service, the number of *cadres*, whether existing in peace or made ready for war, the amount of training received by reserves, the situation of the country itself, its

railway system, and the number and position of its fortresses. In a modern army he considered that all these questions went together, and that national defence included them all. Each people, he continued, had created its own system of defence, in accordance with its history and traditions, and with due regard to its geographical situation, its duties, and surrounding conditions."

Whether we think that those difficulties can be overcome or whether we think them insuperable, which was rather the argument of the German representative, I am inclined to think we shall all at least agree that they are difficulties that we must respect; and if I had any doubt at all on the question I would feel none after having read, as I have, the correspondence which exists in the Foreign Office between one of our greatest foreign Ministers, Lord Clarendon, and one of our greatest ambassadors, Lord Lyons, just before the Franco-German war.

When it was the wish of Lord Clarendon, who was a man quite able to look to the ideal, but who also had an eminently practical mind, to take in hand this question of European disarmament, especially as between France and Prussia, various communications passed between him and Lord Lyons, and there is one short passage to be found in one of Lord Lyons' despatches which places in a very clear light those difficulties to which my noble friend alluded. Lord Lyons, in a communication to Lord Clarendon on January 25th, 1870, wrote as follows—

> "The present Ministers were, Count Daru said, disposed to reduce the annual contingent in France from 100,000 to 80,000 men; in fact, to make a reduction of one-fifth. But how could they propose this, when Prussia had 900,000 men virtually under arms? France was inclined to set a good example, but would Prussia follow it? He had, he confessed, a hope that the establishment of Parliamentary Government in France might not be without its influence; that the people of Germany, seeing that the French nation had taken the management of its own affairs into its own hands, might also insist upon exercising a control over the inordinate military establishments which entailed so great an expense in men and money."

Nearly thirty-six years have gone by since that was written, but, with very slight alteration of names and places, it indicates the exact difficulties which any British Minister would have who, at this moment, approached foreign Powers; and, indeed, I have shown your Lordships that when the question came forward at the last Hague Conference they were brought up again in very clear and able language by the distinguished man from whose speech I quoted an extract from a few moments ago. We know, of course, that the wishes of Lord Clarendon were dashed to the ground, that the great French Statesman, Count Daru, with whom he was negotiating, was turned out of office and was succeeded by one who had not these ideas so much at heart, and we know that shortly after Lord Clarendon himself, to the great loss of this country, passed away.

There is yet another difficulty, and I am obliged to go over these points because I do not think the right rev. Prelate quite sufficiently realised them. There has always been, not only the difficulty of finding a unit of disarmament, but also the great difficulty of finding the tribunal, of fixing upon an arbitrator, as it were, who should decide as to whether or not the unit of disarmament, if one had been found, was really honestly and efficiently applied by all the contracting Powers. It was to that difficulty that the schemes to which the right rev. Prelate alluded as the work of great German philosophers and jurists were directed. But were they successful?

It is a curious fact that the most ingenious of all these schemes was intimately connected with the Electress Sophia of Hanover, the illustrious Princess the founder of the Royal Family which reigns over this country. It was an attempt to form a European Court, founded upon a very curious plan, devised by the jurist and philosopher Leibnitz who enjoyed the patronage of the Electress. It was proposed, as the right rev. Prelate will remember, that all the Christian nations of Europe should reduce their religions to a common denomination. It was a sort of intelligent anticipation, if I may say so, of the Cowper-Temple clause. Louis XIV. was to be some kind of Protestant and the Electress Sophia was to become some kind of Catholic. The Western Powers were all to reduce their armies, and the reduced contingents were then to go eastward and march on the Turk and turn him out of Europe; and it may be interesting to recall that in the plan for the distribution of the Sultan's dominions Egypt was to be given to Louis XIV. Fortunately the Electress Sophia at the last moment preferred the Protestant succession and the Crown of England, though possibly she did not foresee that her descendants would become Protectors of Egypt also.

Your Lordships will see that all these ideal plans have run aground upon the rocks of practical difficulties. The generation in which we live has, therefore, wisely, I think, rather furled its sails and attempted to aim less high, but I am inclined to think that it has obtained more. Successive Foreign Ministers—and we on this side of the House can afford to pay a tribute to those who have gone before us — have succeeded in carrying the principle of arbitration, incorporated in treaties, exceedingly far, as compared with anything which was the hope of those who were living twenty-five years ago. The Hague Conference in itself represents an immense step forward, because it has left behind it a tribunal whose jurisdiction, we may hope, will gradually be extended. I venture to class in the same order of ideas those great improvements in the law of nations which tend to humanise and limit the operations of war. The example of those who have gone before is naturally that which we desire to follow.

There are practical difficulties to be surmounted, but I see no reason why we should despair of approaching in some distant future the ideal to which the right rev. Prelate invited us. In 1883 the first treaty containing an arbitration clause was signed by this country. It was the commercial treaty with Italy. I had the honour to hold the same office at that time which I now hold, and I remember that some persons then thought that even so humble a step as that was not a practical one and that nothing would come of it. But from commercial treaties the arbitration clause has extended to other treaties, and finally there is now what might almost be called a model arbitration treaty which the noble Marquess opposite succeeded in signing with a great number of European Powers. The smaller Powers are all coming into line. Surely that represents great and substantial progress.

As a Power which is not scheming any act of aggression against any other Power, we have through the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs expressed our hope that a better state of things may gradually be produced, and we have already set an example by the reduction of expenditure. We may therefore appeal to the Governments of Europe to follow the example we have set and to join us in the aspirations that were expressed by the Secretary of State a few nights ago.

A German newspaper the other day, a paper of weight and authority, said that disarmament was easier for countries on what is termed the periphery of the European State system than for those at the centre. I am not prepared to dispute that. The military system of Prussia originated with a generation in which the older men had seen Berlin occupied by a Russian army in 1760 and the younger men had seen it occupied by a French army after the battle of Jena. Providence has mercifully spared us such visitation and it is therefore not for us in these matters to sit in judgment upon others less favourably situated.

But we can at least protest in a friendly spirit against any European Power thinking it necessary to increase her burdens yet further and to add yet more to her armaments under a mistaken apprehension that we are planning some great act of aggression by sea, either in the near or more distant future; and we note with satisfaction and reciprocate the friendly language used in the German Parliament on Wednesday. Therefore it is that with such verbal alterations as the moment and place required, I to-night endorse here the words of the Secretary of State in the House of Commons the other night.

As in the time of the late Government, Lord Goschen, when First Lord of the Admiralty, made a public invitation on behalf of the Government to other countries to respond to the feeling of this country for a reduction of naval establishments, so now we trust that this debate in your Lordships' House may be taken as an invitation to other countries to respond to our feeling in favour of encouraging the reduction of armaments, and we decline to be precluded from making a proposal ourselves at The Hague Conference if the times and seasons are favourable, as we trust that, under Divine providence, they may be.

*LORD WEARDALE: My Lords, before the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition addresses your Lordships, as I imagine he will, on behalf of the Party opposite, I should like in a few words to call attention to one very curious omission which it appears to me has been made in the course of this debate. The debate has proceeded hitherto upon the general questions which arise with regard to our enormous armaments both here and abroad, and the growing desire for arbitration and conciliation in the relations between nations; but neither the noble Lord who has spoken on behalf of His Majesty's Government nor the noble Lord who for so long a period occupied an important position at the Foreign Office has made the smallest allusion to an event of great importance—namely, the approaching meeting, as we all hope, of the second Hague Conference.

LORD FITZMAURICE: I did refer to it, and in a marked manner.

*LORD WEARDALE: It is true that the noble Lord gave us a quotation of part of the speech of the Secretary of State in the House of Commons which contained a reference to that meeting, but it seems to me that that is a capital point on which we ought to dwell at the present moment. I do not know at whose invitation, but I assume at the invitation of the Emperor of Russia, there will be held, we understand, in the course of next year the second Hague Conference; and it is because I desire to direct the attention of the Government to the important issues that must be raised in the course of that Conference that I have ventured to intervene now with a very few words. The first Hague Conference, called together on the initiative of the Tsar, did, I think, a very great work for humanity, because it resulted in the establishment of The Hague tribunal and the setting up of a permanent body to which all international difficulties can be, and I hope will be increasingly, referred. But the first Hague Conference was a casual gathering assembled at the invitation of a great potentate, not a regular institution which was to meet automatically at certain periods. I hope that the next Hague Conference will assent to this proposition, that it is to be regarded no longer as a casual meeting but as a permanent institution, to be called together automatically at certain periods for the purpose of continuing the work of civilisation and of peace.

I further hope that The Hague Conference will establish a permanent Committee, or, rather two permanent Committees, one of which shall carry on the work of the codification of international law, which at present is done, or more correctly stated, assumed to be done, as we all know, by irresponsible bodies, and that it will also set up that very Court to which allusion has been made, a Court of military control which shall be able to supervise the whole question of the limitation of armaments. It has been said by Lord Sanderson that we must wait until one of the great Powers of Europe leads the way in the diminution of armaments. If we wait till then we may wait for ever. We must take the opportunity of the next Hague Conference, not only to act ourselves, but to bring in with us other Powers; and we most certainly should have the active co-operation of the United States in making a determined appeal to the second Hague Conference to try to bring about some limitation in the enormous growth of naval and military armaments throughout the world.

It is said that the Governments of different countries find great difficulty in initiating or carrying out any proposal of that kind; but behind all Governments in these days there stand the people, the tax-payers. The tax-payers of Germany, of France, of this country, and of all the great military nations have to bear the terrible burdens of the immense and bloated armaments and I say, as the Prime Minister has wisely said on a memorable occasion, that it is our business, standing at the head of civilisation, to put ourselves in the forefront of this great movement and try and bring about at the next Hague Conference that League of Peace which I believe will respond to the popular feeling of the world, and overcome all the difficulties which have been alluded to in the matter of the limitation of armaments.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: My Lords, I only rise to say one word in reply to part of the speech of the noble Lord who has just sat down. Napoleon, who is admitted to have been one of the ablest of men, imposed on Prussia in 1807 a Treaty of Peace by which she was not to have more than 42,000 men. For several years the French Army remained in occupation in Prussia, and notwithstanding all the opportunities Napoleon and Marshal Davoust had of supervising Prussia, when that country at last threw down the gauntlet in 1813, she put over 220,000 men in the field, and although she lost more than 42,000 men killed in battle, she had large armies opposite Paris in 1814 at the conclusion of hostilities. That shows how impossible it is to limit armaments when a nation will not submit to the limitation.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I have only a few words to add to the interesting conversation which has taken place this evening. My noble friend who initiated it gave utterance to a feeling which I think must have been present for a long time past, not only to the mind of every Member of your Lordships' House, but to every citizen of this country. We know how intolerable the increase of these burdens is becoming, and we realise, as he realises, that not only are they hard to bear in the present, but that their existence tends to diminish the resources of the country and to make it more difficult for us in future times of emergency to respond as readily as we might wish to calls upon the public purse. But, my Lords, this question is after all, a practical one, and it is not one which can be solved by mere aspirations for more peaceful counsels and more moderate armaments. To what, then, can we look for relief? I think it is obvious that there are two directions and two directions only, in which we can look for an improvement in a condition of things which we all deplore.

We can, in the first place, maintain our present policy, we can continue to take the precautions which we have hitherto thought it necessary to take, and we can at the same time economise in administration. We have been told again to-night that His Majesty's Government are able to hold out to us a definite prospect that they will be able to economise in administration. I wish them success. I think it too likely that in the past a great deal of public money has been unwisely spent in naval and military defences. That has been due, to my mind, mainly to this cause, that we have been in the habit of adopting rather too hurriedly what I might describe as the undigested advice of our naval and military experts. I do not think we have always realised sufficiently that these great problems of Imperial defence are not merely political problems, or naval problems, or military problems, but that they are all three at once, and it is because we have failed to consider those problems in that more comprehensive manner that I believe we have in the past been led frequently to unnecessary expenditure, whether upon ships, armaments, or, more especially, upon coast defences, such, for example, as those costly works in the Channel Islands and at St Lucia which have more than once been referred to in this House.

That state of things has to some extent, I venture to believe, been improved by the creation of the Committee of Imperial Defence, to whose counsel it is due that before we left office we were able to make some reductions, at all events, both in our naval and in our military expenditure. I remember the time when that Committee was called into existence, and when in both of the great spending Departments there was an uneasy feeling that it might prove extremely embarrassing to them. That feeling has, I think, passed away, and both the Admiralty and the War Office now recognise that the Committee of Imperial Defence is a valuable ally and a protection to them in the administration of their affairs. I am glad to think that that Committee remains in existence, and that His Majesty's Government recognise the value of its advice.

Some saving may then be possible by economy in administration, but my noble friend Lord Avebury contemplates something very different from that. What he desires is that there should be an alteration in the very foundation of our naval and military policy, and that we should in consequence of such an alteration diminish the precautions which we have up to the present time been in the habit of taking; and he bases this suggestion on the fact that in his belief a great change has arisen in the international situation. The noble Lord quoted at length the speech of the Prime

Minister, in which Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman made a reference to what he described as the happier conditions now prevailing, conditions to which he thought our armaments might for the future be adjusted.

*LORD AVEBURY: Will my noble friend allow me to explain? My argument was that France, Germany, and England are all about to increase their navies, and it appeared to me that we might therefore approach France and Germany and suggest that we should be relatively in the same position if we left our navies at the same strength as they are at present.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My noble friend made his meaning perfectly clear, and I will come to that in a moment. What I venture to submit to the House is that it is our duty to think twice before assuming that the time has really come when we may venture, in anticipation of the action of other Powers, to resort to any such general measure of disarmament as was apparently contemplated by my noble friend, and certainly must have been contemplated by the Prime Minister in the speech which my noble friend quoted.

Our policy up to the present time has been, in the strictest sense, a policy of defence. We have no sinister designs upon the territory of other people. We have to provide for the safety of our own possessions, and, above all, for the protection of our great commerce; and it is principally in order to ensure the safety of our commerce that the large naval tonnage referred to is necessary, a tonnage which, unless I am mistaken, is very largely composed of cruisers. That expenditure is in the nature of insurance against risks, and so long as risks continue so long must we, as reasonable people, make our insurance bear some proportion to the risks we run.

While I say that, I admit that the policy of adjusting our military and naval expenditure to the military and naval expenditure of other Powers has its obvious inconveniences. It is a policy which, if pursued, so to speak, to the bitter end, may lead to something like national bankruptcy, and the moment may come when the people of this country will prefer to eat their daily bread in fear rather than starve in security. But we have not arrived at that point yet. I admit, nevertheless that no greater blessing could be conferred upon the peoples of the world, and no greater claim to an immortal gratitude could be established by Sovereign or statesman, than by the Sovereign or statesman who was able to induce the European Powers to make some abatement in those colossal armaments which are involving all of them in such immense expense.

But, my Lords, the question we have to ask ourselves is whether this country is the country upon whom it is incumbent to take the first step towards that process of disarmament. The right rev. Prelate who spoke to us so eloquently this evening is no longer in his place. If he were I should tell him that I am the last person in the world to make light of that ideal which he held up for our admiration. I have myself in a very humble way endeavoured to pursue that ideal; but, like many other people, I have been discouraged by seeing how the shores of the promised land ever seem to recede into the distance of the political horizon.

Now, my Lords, it is worth considering for one moment what are those happier conditions which my noble friend Lord Avebury and the Prime Minister have in their minds. We have, to begin with, treaties of arbitration, of which we may say, without fear of contradiction, that the late Government concluded a greater number than any other Government, either in this country or elsewhere. And we have practised what we preached, because we have referred some questions with practical results to arbitration. I attach the greatest value to the principle of arbitration. It creates a predisposition in favour of peaceful settlements; it prevents great Powers from fastening a quarrel one upon another for some purely trivial reason; and, as the right rev. Prelate told us so truly, when trouble is brewing the existence of the machinery of arbitration tends to give time, which, as he put it, so often has the effect of cooling down hot and angry passions. But, my Lords, treaties of arbitration will certainly not rid the world altogether of the danger of conflict. There are some questions about which no Power will go to arbitration; and in every treaty of arbitration that I have ever seen or had to do with there has been a clause in which it was expressly laid down that upon certain matters touching the vital interests or the honour of the contracting parties they would not consent to submit to arbitration.

In addition to arbitration, you may look to international settlements of outstanding questions, such as the international arrangement which we were able to conclude with the French Republic. I attach almost more value to such arrangements than I do to treaties of arbitration, because they are, or may be, the means of getting rid of the cause of dispute in its origin instead of leaving it in existence to be dealt with afterwards by arbitration.

I am glad to think that the conclusion of such arrangements acts as an encouragement to the conclusion of other similar arrangements between the Powers, and I am sure that we have all noticed with satisfaction the announcement which was made a few hours ago in regard to the hopeful relations now existing between the Government of this country and the Russian Government. We have made a good arrangement with France, and nothing could be more satisfactory than that it should be followed by an arrangement on the same lines with the friend and ally of France, the nation which is ruled by a Sovereign who has always shown by his actions how near to his heart is the cause of international peace. And, my, Lords, I may also express the pleasure with which I became aware that His Majesty's Government had been able to dispose of the long-standing and troublesome difference of opinion with the Congo State as to affairs in the Bahr-el-Ghazal and on the Nile.

There remains one other mode of diminishing the risk of international complications. Many countries, finding the burden of armaments so great that they are unable to bear it alone, have shared it with other Powers by means of alliances. I have always regarded these groupings of the Powers not as a menace to the peace of Europe, but as an additional security for it, because a single Power is very apt to think twice before it precipitately embarks on a quarrel if it knows that that quarrel will involve, not itself alone, but those with whom it is most closely connected; and your Lordships cannot have forgotten that, although in former days it was the policy of this country, I may almost say the pride of this country, to keep clear of such international contracts, we took a long step in a new direction in the alliance which we made with the Empire of Japan, an alliance which I have always defended, and shall always continue to defend, as one calculated to ensure peace, and to diminish the prospect of international strife.

By all these means something can no doubt be done to diminish international tension, and to make it possible for the Powers to content themselves with a more moderate amount of naval and military preparation. I for one should rejoice if it were indeed the case that there now prevailed among those Powers who will meet next year at The Hague a feeling that the time had come, when on account of the greater serenity of the international atmosphere it was possible for them to desist from some, at all events, of the military and naval preparations which they have been in the habit of making. I should rejoice to see such a movement. I should rejoice to see that the Government of this country was able to take part in it. I should like to see that movement become so general and so popular that those Powers, whether it was one Power or a small number, who held aloof, would place themselves in a really invidious and untenable position; and I should be glad if His Majesty's Government or their representatives were able to contribute anything towards such a result.

But, my Lords, I wish to make it perfectly clear that while those are my feelings I should most strongly object to anything in the shape of a contract by which the Government of this country bound itself to restrict either its naval or its military armaments within certain prescribed limits. There are fatal objections, to my mind, to any arrangement of the sort. Some of them have been touched upon in the course of this debate. The difficulty of finding a formula applicable to the varying conditions, political, naval, and military, of the contracting parties is almost insuperable But, besides that, supposing you have made your bargain, what means have you of deciding whether the contract has been observed? And supposing you are satisfied that it has not been observed, what means have you of enforcing your contract?

Those seem to me to be practical objections, and I have never been told how it is possible to surmount them. It is notorious that there are innumerable ways of evading any international bargains of the kind which I have endeavoured to describe. But, even if other Powers were ready to submit to such ties, I feel extremely doubtful whether the people of this country would submit to them. We had an object lesson not very long ago. We entered into a Convention with regard to the prosaic subject of sugar, and under that Convention it will be remembered we set up a Standing Commission, to whom was to be entrusted the task of deciding whether the contracting parties, including ourselves, had or had not violated the terms of the Convention. Your Lordships will remember that no feature in the arrangement was so unpopular as that Commission, because we were told that we were handing over to a cosmopolitan tribunal the arrangement of the tariff of this country. If a small arrangement of that kind was unpopular, what would be said of an International Commission to whom we committed the task of saying to us, "You have too many battalions or too many ships, and we therefore call upon you at once to diminish your Army by such and such a number of men or your squadrons by such and such a number of vessels.

This country must, in my humble opinion, retain its freedom to take whatever measures are necessary for the security of the Empire and of British commerce. It must be our principle to watch others and to follow their lead, rather than to diminish our precautions in anticipation of what they might possibly hereafter do; and I must say that if the disposition which my noble friend Lord Avebury detects in the tone of some of the great Powers really exists, it seems to me not unreasonable to expect of them that they will set us the example. Our Navy is so much more essential to us than any other Navy is to any other Power that we cannot afford to play tricks with a question which is really vital to the very existence of this country.

As for The Hague Conference, my noble friend on the Cross Benches, Lord Sanderson, whose first participation in our debates we all welcomed, reminded your Lordships that the first Hague Conference was entirely unsuccessful in dealing with this question, and, unless I am very much mistaken—I shall be corrected if I am wrong—the invitations which were given to us to attend the new Hague Conference did not contain any reference at all to this question as one of those with which the Conference was intended to deal.

If I may sum up what I desire to say I would do so in these words. Certainly let us show a readiness to discuss with other Powers the possibility of lessening our naval and military expenditure, and certainly let us support any Powers we find ready to give us a lead. But do not let us take any steps until it is established beyond all question that other Powers are not only in favour of doing what is desired, but have made a commencement in doing it. If this country is respected by other Powers it is not only because our diplomacy is straightforward and honest, not only because we are known to have no aggressive designs on other people, but because it is perfectly well understood that, much as we love peace, we are ready for war, and will take the risk of war if war becomes unavoidable. And, as to that, I would remind your Lordships that within the last few weeks we have been told by the Secretary of State for War that our Army, whatever its imperfections, was never more efficient than it is at present, and by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the British fleet never was in a position of greater comparative superiority. If that is true, let us think twice before, in pursuit of an ideal, no matter how attractive or how noble, we diminish the fighting efficiency of those two great services.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, we have had a very interesting discussion on a very important question, and we have heard many eloquent speeches and speeches of the greatest weight, like that from my noble friend on the cross Benches, Lord Sanderson. My noble friend who has just sat down expressed his belief that his Majesty's Government would be likely to take all steps that they could for reducing our military and naval expenditure so far as might be safe. That is precisely the policy which his Majesty's Government desire and intend to follow.

I draw a great distinction between the two terms "diminution of expenditure" and "disarmament." The diminution of naval or military expenditure, or both, must be regulated by considerations of the condition and circumstances of each country. The people of the country are the best judges of what is necessary for their own security, and, for whatever may be required for that security, either at home or in foreign parts, it is, and always will be, the duty of the Government of this country to make ample provision. But when my noble friend, Lord Avebury, speaks of a policy of disarmament, he enters upon a totally different description of discussion. Disarmament cannot be entertained, as it seems to me, by any country, except with a fair and general understanding with other nations. We cannot enter upon anything which would deserve to be called disarmament so long as other nations maintain the great, and, if I may say so without disrespect, the exaggerated armaments which they maintain at the present time.

I think the noble Marquess opposite cast undue doubt upon the possibility of entering into any consideration of this question of international armaments at the coming Hague Conference. My noble friend behind me, Lord Weardale, misunderstood what fell from my noble friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in his excellent speech. The noble Lord seemed to think that Lord Fitzmaurice said nothing, or hardly anything, with respect to The Hague Conference. That is not the case. My noble friend referred to what had been said by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in another place. Your Lordships know the language that my right hon. friend used. He said in effect, "We do not hold ourselves in any way precluded from discussing this question at The Hague Conference if we should see fit to do so." To that we undoubtedly intend to adhere. If an opportunity should offer, if we should find the representatives of other nations ready to discuss this subject, we shall be prepared to do so. My noble friend who has just sat down said, "Let us follow their lead." I do not think that is necessary. We may follow their lead, or they may follow our lead, but we are not going to pledge ourselves that we will not give them a lead if the opportunity arises. That is quite consistent with what was said by the Prime Minister and what has been said by many successive ministers since the days of Lord Clarendon.

We do most ardently desire, for the benefit of the world much more than for our own benefit, that the day should come when these vast armaments may be diminished; and, if we can do anything which is consistent with the maintenance of our own position, it would be our clear duty to do it if opportunity should offer. But we are not going to rush wildly into this question. We stand very much on a statement which was made in 1899 by my noble friend Lord Goschen in reference to this question of naval expenditure, and we look to seize, and seize with avidity, any opportunity which may come to us to promote the relief of the nations of the world by a general reduction of the present vast armaments. But we do not intend, in any course we may take, whether at home or at the Hague Conference or anywhere else, to do anything which would tend in the smallest degree to weaken the security which is necessary to the maintenance of the Empire.

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day read for the House being put into Committee.

Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My Lords, before the Motion is put I beg to move the Instruction standing in my name on the Paper, giving the Committee power to extend the Bill to include a declaration of the law relating to all marriages legal in the place in which they have been contracted, and recognised as valid in the United Kingdom. I should like to guard myself from its being supposed that the objections which I and others feel to this Bill, and which were so admirably expressed by several noble Lords the other night, and especially by

Lord Halifax, will be removed in the smallest degree if the Instruction which I propose is carried; but it seems to me that, whether the Bill is on the whole satisfactory or not, it at least should be made a logical one, and I protest very strongly against legislation with regard to the marriage law dealing with that subject in a one-sided manner. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack stated the other night—I have not got his exact words, but I do not think I shall misrepresent him—that the law of this country recognised as valid all marriages contracted abroad or in the Colonies unless they were repugnant to the common religion of Christendom, if contracted by persons domiciled in the country where those marriages were legal; that is to say, they were valid for all purposes except one, succession to real property. Now, if it be desirable to remove an exception which prevents the succession of the offspring of these marriages to real property, why do you select only one form of marriage, namely, marriage with a deceased wife's sister? The grievance which it is proposed to remove under this Bill is, I believe, an absolutely academic grievance. It has never been alleged in this House, so far as I have heard, that a child of a marriage with a deceased wife's sister was ever prevented from succeeding to real property in this country.

It appears that this marriage is selected because their happens to be a fancy for marriage with a deceased wife's sister in the Colonies and it has often been contracted. I have always protested against the counting of noses in the matter of the marriage law. I hold that if a marriage is lawful and right, either from a religious, moral, or social point of view, then that marriage should be allowed whether one person wants it or 500. On the other hand, if a marriage is wrong, either from a religious, moral, or social point of view, it does not matter how many people wish to contract: it the Legislature has no right to make it legal. In the same way, it appears to me that any man in the whole of our vast Empire after you have passed this Bill who is the offspring of another form of marriage legal in some of the Colonies—a marriage, we will say, with the niece of a deceased wife—has a definite grievance against you if he is left out of the four corners of your Bill.

I quite appreciate the danger which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack pointed out of admitting marriages which are revolting to the conscience of Christendom, as some of the Hindu marriages to which the noble and learned Lord referred are, but, as I understood the definition which the noble and learned Lord himself gave, those marriages would be excluded because they would be repugnant to the common religion of Christendom. I contend that you should not legislate for one marriage only just as fancy dictates, and I urge that if you deal with this matter at all, all marriages that are according to the conscience of Christendom should be admitted within the four corners of the Bill.

Moved, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to extend the Bill to include a declaration of the law relating to all marriages legal in the place in which they have been contracted, and recognised as valid in the United Kingdom."—(*The Duke of Northumberland.*)

THE EARL OF JERSEY: My Lords, I hope the House will not accept the Instruction which has just been moved by the noble Duke. The noble Duke objects to the Bill because it is limited to one class of marriages, and he forthwith proceeds to endeavour to enlarge it very considerably. I am not going to argue the reasons for this Bill, but I may tell the noble Duke that this is not considered an academic question in the Colonies. It is, on the contrary, looked upon as a matter of very great importance, and it is one on which there is very strong sentiment. In several of the Colonies Acts have been passed which have been sanctioned by the Imperial Government legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and this Bill has been brought forward in order to enable the offspring of those marriages to secure full legal rights in this country. It is a very simple measure, and I hope we shall not commit the mistake of widening the scope of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, I am afraid I cannot consent to the Instruction which has been moved by the noble Duke. I do not deny that a Bill could be drawn on the lines which the noble Duke indicates in his Instruction, but it would not be this Bill. I may at once say that we did consider the alterative measure suggested by the noble Duke and rejected it, and if I wanted a justification for that course I think I might find it in what took place on the Second Reading of this Bill. The noble Marquess opposite, Lord Salisbury, complained that we were advocating a state of things in which everything that was enacted by Colonial Legislatures should have effect in the United Kingdom. That is the purport of the Instruction moved by the noble Duke, but it is not the purport of the Bill which I have had the honour of introducing to your Lordships.

The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack pointed out, on the Second Reading, that we deal in this Bill with one particular subject. We deal with the law which prevails over a great part of our Colonial Empire, and which has existed there for more than twenty years without, I think, any inconvenience or any scandal arising. But twenty years is not a very long time in which to bring about questions of succession to property or to honours such as are dealt with in this Bill. As the noble Earl who spoke last mentioned, the present state of things is regarded in the Colonies as an anomaly, and our Colonial fellow subjects are unanimous in their desire for this Bill.

All that we propose in this Bill is to make a concession on the matter of succession to property. We do not deal in any way with the marriage law, and I ask the House to bear that in mind in voting upon the Instruction moved by the noble Duke. The most rev. Primate, who spoke on the Second Reading of this Bill, as he always does, in both a cautious and moderate manner, said he strongly objected to changes in the marriage law in the direction of the particular marriage mentioned in this Bill; but he added that, on the statement which I had made of the intention of this Bill, he acquiesced in the change. That is the position I take with regard to this Bill. I ask your Lordships to agree to it, not as a change in the marriage law, but as a declaration of the law with a view to remedying a grievance with regard to succession to property and honours which is much felt in our Colonial Empire.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: My Lords, I feel bound, after the speech to which we have just listened, to call the attention of the noble Earl to the language of the Bill. The Bill begins with an allegation that it is for the purpose of removing doubts. I am not aware that on the particular subject in question there have been any doubts. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack would not suggest that there was any doubt on the question whether the offspring of a marriage not according to the law recognised in England could inherit real property in England. Again, I look at the Bill, and I find that it is a Bill, not to alter any law, but to declare the law. Is that accurate? I should have thought that if the object of the Bill is, as stated, to remove a grievance which is supposed to exist, it should not be to declare but to enact. It will be found in a moment that this is not a mere verbal objection but one of substance.

The sole object of this Bill is to alter our law of inheritance to real property in the case of the particular marriage in question. But have the draftsmen done it? It is not part of my duty to attempt to amend the Bill for the Government. That is their responsibility; but I venture to think it would be difficult for any lawyer to say that this Bill removes a supposed grievance at all. I have already pointed out that it states that doubts have been entertained, and that it further purports to declare the law. Now, let us see what the rest of the Bill says. Clause 1 provides that where a man has, whether before or after the passing of this Act, married his deceased wife's sister, and at the date of the marriage each of the parties was domiciled in a part of the British possessions in which at that date such a marriage was legal, the marriage if legal in other respects shall be, and shall be deemed always to have been, legal for all purposes within the United Kingdom. So it is at present. I am not aware that any part of that statement could be controverted. It is legal at this moment, and for all purposes.

The *status* of the persons married is legally that of man and wife. The one question with which the Bill is supposed to deal—namely, the right of inheritance to reality in England—is not mentioned in the Bill from beginning to end. The right of inheritance to real property in

England is not any defect as regards the marriage. If the view I take is the true view, then this Bill is waste paper. It will not do the thing you intend it to do. After the statement of the noble Earl that the sole object of the Bill is to remove this supposed grievance, I have thought it my duty to point out to the noble Earl that it does not accomplish its object.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, before the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack replies I should like to say a word or two on what has been said by my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury. The argument he addressed to your Lordships was not, I venture to think, quite relevant to the Motion which has been submitted by the noble Duke; but anything coming from my noble and learned friend of course deserves the attention of your Lordships. My noble and learned friend's first point was that there could be no doubt, and never had been any doubt, upon the question whether the marriage was in this country legal as regards the inheritance to property.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I said nothing of the sort. I said there never was any doubt on the question whether a person so born could inherit real property.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I would remind my noble and learned friend that this Bill was discussed in 1898 when he was on the Woolsack, and that my noble and learned friend Lord Esher expressed the opinion that the Bill was unnecessary. He said that it was quite clear to his mind that these persons could inherit; and my noble and learned friend will find that statement by Lord Esher reported. With regard to my noble and learned friend's second objection, I would advise the Lord Chancellor, if I may venture to do so, to listen to what Lord Halsbury has said and make perfectly clear what is the intention of the Bill. The object of the Bill is to give the children of these marriages the right of succession to real property. The Bill provides that these marriages shall be legal for all purposes within the United Kingdom. That must include, I should think, succession to real property. But I agree that my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury has rendered good service in calling attention to this matter, if there be any doubt as to the efficiency of the drafting. I do not think that the distinction between marriages with a deceased wife's sister in the Colonies and other marriages not valid in this country is quite appreciated. South Australia was the first Colony to pass an Act legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister. They had to enact it five times before the Imperial Government would give way. But the Imperial Government did then give way, and the law was ratified within that Colony. Since then fifteen other colonies have followed suit, and the Acts have all received the consent of the Imperial Government. These colonies now come as suitors pointing out to us that it was with the sanction of this country that these marriages were contracted, and asking that no stain of illegitimacy should exist. The Instruction moved by my noble friend would include all parts of the Empire. We have Crown Colonies in which polygamy is recognised.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: But those marriages are not valid in the United Kingdom, and the noble Duke's instruction only affects such marriages as are valid in this country.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack said that all marriages that were according to the conscience of Christendom were valid in this country for every purpose except one; and I ask that all such marriages should be included within the scope of the Bill.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I accept the noble Duke's reading of his own Instruction, but is there any analogy between the two cases? In the one case the Colonies themselves do not wish to have any alteration made in the law, but in this particular case the grievance is taking place day by day. This is not by any means an academic question. In 1898, after the debate on this Bill, a man who had been present in the Stranger's Gallery spoke to me in the lobby as I was leaving, and after referring in terms of satisfaction to the debate, he said—

"Do understand why I object to this law. I object to it because it brings shame upon me and upon my child. There is one other person on whose behalf I object to this law still more. I object to it on behalf of that wife whom I married according to the laws you gave us. What has she done that she should be told she has borne an illegitimate child?"

I could not tell him what she had done, and I do not think your Lordships could.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, in reply to what was said by my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury with regard to the removing of doubts may I say that I was under the impression that there had been a difference of opinion in this House between the late Master of the Rolls, Lord Esher, and Lord Davey on this point. I believe that Lord Esher stated that in his opinion a child of a marriage of this kind was entitled to succeed to real property in England, and that my noble and learned friend Lord Davey expressed a contrary opinion. I would remind the House that this is no new Bill. It was in existence before the present Government came into power; and the difference of opinion to which I have referred probably accounts for the insertion of the words "for removing doubts." The Bill proceeds to say that the marriage shall be legal for all purposes within the United Kingdom. Surely that must include succession to real property. I cannot see any ambiguity in the drafting, but, if I am wrong, the matter can be discussed in Committee. The noble Duke, by his Instruction, would be legalising certain marriages without being able to define them, and uncertainty is always undesirable especially in the law of marriage. When you say that a marriage between a man and his deceased wife's sister shall be recognised as legal for all purposes you know exactly what you mean. But if you say that any marriage which is valid in the Colonies shall be valid here you enable every Colony in the British Empire to make laws which are saddled on you.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: If it is the sense of the House I will withdraw my Instruction.

Instruction, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1:—

VISCOUNT HALIFAX moved an Amendment to insert the provision that nothing in the Bill should affect the obligations imposed on any clergyman by the laws ecclesiastical. He explained that the object of the Amendment was to clear up any possible doubt and prevent difficulties arising in the future. If, however, he was assured that the only effect of the Bill was to remedy a legal grievance, and that it in no way affected the laws ecclesiastical or the obligations of the clergy, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 20, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'provided also that nothing in this Act shall affect the obligations imposed on any clergyman by the laws ecclesiastical.'"—(*Viscount Halifax.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I believe there is nothing in the Bill which affects the obligations imposed on clergymen by the laws of the Church; but I quite appreciate the noble Viscount's point, and I will endeavour to satisfy myself with regard to it before the Third Reading. I will tell the noble Viscount if I see any reason to alter my opinion.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX: If the Bill does not affect the laws ecclesiastical my Amendment would, of course, be superfluous. I am content not to press my Amendment at this stage, but to leave the matter as the noble and learned Lord has suggested.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I think the noble and learned Lord has met my noble friend fairly in the promise which he has made to look into this matter between now and the Third Reading; but I think your Lordships must have been struck with the amount of doubt there was in the Lord Chancellor's words. I hope that if he finds that as a matter of fact the Bill does affect the ecclesiastical laws he will be the first to agree to the Amendment on the Third Reading.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My doubt is due to this fact, that I thought the Amendment had another reference until the noble Viscount was kind enough to explain to me a few minutes ago what his meaning was. The laws ecclesiassical are familiar to very few of us, but I think I know enough of them to be able to assure the noble Lord that

Lord James of Hereford,

this Bill does not affect those laws. But I should not like the noble Viscount to act upon an opinion of that kind without being quite sure, and I will therefore look into the matter between now and the Third Reading.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Remaining clause agreed to, and Bill reported without Amendment to the House.

ELECTIONS (MEETINGS IN SCHOOL-ROOMS) BILL [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

POLICE (SUPERANNUATION) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª on Tuesday next.

House adjourned at Twenty-five minutes past Seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 25th May, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Manchester Corporation Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Cheltenham Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Edinburgh Corporation Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made. Bill to be read the third time,

London County Council (General Powers) Bill. As amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

Metropolitan Railway Bill; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords]; South Suburban Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the Port of Manchester," presented by Mr. Runciman; supported by Mr. John Burns; read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 233.]

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1).

Mr. Compton Rickett reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills; That, to suit the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at Two of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRADE).

Petition from Greenock, for suppression; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Cotterstock; Easebourne; Fillongley; Huntingdon; Moresby (two); Sandown; Sowerby Bridge (two); and, Yarm; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Falkirk, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Hucknall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against; from Canterbury and Hayfield; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES ACTS, 1879 AND 1884.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address May 22nd; *Mr. Herbert Samuel*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 183.]

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Reports, Statistics, etc., on Continuation Classes and Central Institutions (Scotland), 1904–5 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, fixing the engineering establishment to be maintained in future by the Corporation of the Trinity House [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, exempting from remeasurement in this country Italian merchant ships, and revoking previous Orders in Council [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870 TO 1895.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, for giving effect to a Treaty concluded between the United Kingdom and the republic of Nicaragua, for the mutual surrender of fugitive criminals [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copies presented, of two Orders in Council of May 11th, 1906, entitled (1) The Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906, and (2) The Federated Malay States Appeals Order in Council, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of May 11th, 1906, increasing the quantity of certain fireworks which may be kept on registered premises [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACTS, 1878 AND 1889.

Copies presented, of two Orders in Council of May 11th, 1906: (1) approving new denominations of standing weights of twenty pounds, ten pounds and five pounds and (2) fixing the fees to be taken by Inspectors of Weights and Measures on the verification and stamping of each of the above-named weights [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3597 to 3599 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

JUDGE-ADVOCATE GENERAL (LETTERS PATENT).

Copy presented, of Letters Patent appointing Thomas Milvain, Esquire, K.C., to be Judge-Advocate General [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Telegraph Line to Skerries, Shetland—Contribution to Cost by Congested Districts Board.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if the Congested Districts Board will contribute towards the annual contribution required by the Post Office for a telegraph to Skerries, Shetland, provided the Post Office will agree to construct the same on the basis suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) On receiving a statement from the Postmaster-General as to the practicability and cost of the proposed extension, the Board will give the matter every consideration.

MR. CATHCART WASON: To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware of the necessity for increased postal and telegraphic communication at Skerries, Shetland; and if he will grant the people of the islands telegraphic facilities on the favourable terms recently suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, provided the Congested Districts Board of Scotland approve and will contribute towards the same.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am having inquiry made into the matter, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member. If telegraph facilities can be afforded at a reasonable cost the reduced terms for guarantee recently introduced will apply.

Damage by Motor Traffic—Suggested Tax.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has recently been drawn to the nuisance and damage caused by motor vehicles in districts on the outskirts of London and other large towns; and whether he can see his way to advising the Chancellor of the Exchequer to impose some further special tax on motor vehicles, the proceeds to be allocated to the local authorities in the districts particularly affected, as, for instance, the various districts between London and Brighton, in order that same may be spent on watering roads and compensating farmers and householders whose crops and property are being damaged.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have received numerous complaints on this subject, and I have communicated them to the Royal Commission on Motor Cars, who are considering the matter. The Chancellor stated on the 21st instant †, in reply to the hon. Member for the Wycombe Division, that he thought the consideration of a suggestion similar to that made in the Question should be postponed until the Commission had presented their Report.

Education Bill—Inefficient Voluntary Schools.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): To ask the President of the Board of Educaation whether, in the event of the Bill now before Parliament passing into law, any voluntary school being certified as inefficient, an opportunity would be granted it of becoming efficient; and if so, what time would be allowed; and furthermore whether any parent sending his or her children to such a school would enjoy immunity from prosecution.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Board do not certify a school as inefficient.

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† See Col. 913.

Every school now recognised as a voluntary public elementary school is in fact a certified efficient school. If such a school ceased under the Bill to be recognised as a public elementary school it would still remain a certified efficient school. The recognition of a school as a certified efficient school would not be withdrawn without due notice being given and ample opportunity afforded for defects to be remedied.

Insanitary Houses in Belfast.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board's attention has been called to the correspondence that has taken place over the high death-rate of Belfast; whether houses have been built upon unsanitary sites without let or hindrance; and, if so, who is responsible; and if he will consider the advisability of ordering an inquiry into the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The correspondence on this subject in the local Press has come under the notice of the Local Government Board, but no local representations have yet been received by the Board asking for their interference in the matter. The general suitability of building sites is a matter for the decision of the corporation. The Local Government Board have no functions except in cases in which sites are acquired by the corporation for housing of the working classes; in all such cases a local inquiry is held before a loan is sanctioned. The death-rate from all causes in Belfast is high, but the Board's medical inspector is in communication with the Public Health Committee in reference to the necessity of certain sanitary reforms. An inquiry does not appear to be necessary.

Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants—Application of John Haurihan.

MR. SHEEHAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received any applications for a free grant on behalf of John Haurihan, an evicted tenant on the estate of Captain Townsend, Curradrinagh, Kilmichael, county Cork, who was reinstated last February and has since signed his purchase agreement; has it been represented to the Estates Commissioners that Haurihan requires this grant to improve his dwelling-house and out offices and to stock his farm; and will he state whether it is proposed to send an inspector to investigate this claim without delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have recently received an application on behalf of John Haurihan to the effect stated, and will have inquiry made into the case by one of their Inspectors.

Belfast District Police Inspectors.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when District Inspector Redmond, of Belfast, was appointed District Inspector, what previous experience he had of police duties; in what stations and during what periods he has served; and whether he can give similar particulars with regard to the other district inspectors of Belfast?

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that District Inspector Redmond was appointed district inspector on November 1st, 1896. He was appointed to the constabulary as a cadet, and, like other cadets, had no previous experience of police work. He was transferred to Belfast on December 13th, 1905. He had previously served in the following stations: Ballyvaughan, from March 1st, 1897, to March 1st, 1898; Spiddal, from March 1st, 1898, to May 1st, 1902; Maryborough, from May 1st, 1902, to December 13th, 1905. I have forwarded to the hon. Member similar particulars as regards the five other district inspectors in Belfast.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

First Report, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [Bill 182.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS (PROCEDURE).

Second Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up and read.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 181.]

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.), in moving the Second Reading said he would like to ask hon. Members who had not heard this Bill discussed before to give him their attention and indulgence, as the measure applied entirely to Ireland. This was not a subject of religious views whatever. In fact, if the House would look at the names on the back of the Bill they would see that it represented all the different sections. The Select Committee which sat in regard to the question of the shortening of the hours for the sale of intoxicants, recommended nine o'clock closing on Saturday nights. In 1896 the Royal Commission endorsed the Select Committee's recommendations. There had been thousands of meetings in Ireland in favour of early Saturday closing, and entire Sunday closing, and the further extension of the distance required of the *bona fide* traveller. These reforms were not only necessary, but absolutely desirable in the interests of Ireland as a whole. It was quite true that there was opposition to the Bill. He supposed it was quite natural, but when they noted the quarter from which the opposition came, they would at once realise that it would be one of the greatest miracles of the age if that opposition did not exist—it came from the Licensed Victuallers' Association. The idea that the temperance reformers wanted to injure individuals might very well be cast on one side when he said they were trying to save the individual from the temptation to indulge in excessive drinking. The first two clauses of the Bill were identical with those in the Bill reported to the House by a Select Committee in 1888 and had been endorsed by the House on several other occasions. The Bill proposed to extend to the cities which were at present exempted the statute which prohibited the sale of liquor on Sunday, and to extend its provisions to the whole country. Sunday closing did not exist in the five cities in Ireland, and they found that where it did exist outside those cities it was not only a great boon to the people, but was generally so accepted by them. There had indeed been no serious complaint. The Bill proposed to amend the law in respect of the *bona fide* traveller, by requiring that instead of going three miles to get a drink, he should not be justified in obtaining it unless he went four extra miles. The Select Committee reported that a great deal of excessive drinking on Saturday nights would be avoided by early closing. He did not expect the House would accept the proposition from him that he was not a bigoted temperance reformer. He had sat in the House since 1902, and he regretted to say that the idea of hon. Members of temperance advocates was not only erroneous, but extravagant. They were supposed to set up their opposition against individuals and not against the system. He had nothing at all to do with individuals engaged in the traffic. All he desired to do was to make it as easy as possible to do right, and as difficult as possible to do wrong. If public-houses were opened very early in the morning they ought not to remain open till eleven at night. To take two hours from those houses was a proposal that should meet with the support of all reasonable and right minded men. In 1903 when a similar Bill came before the House and passed the Second Reading, a Member for Dublin pointed out the necessity for regulating the clubs, and declared that if the temperance reformers would bring in a Bill to regulate the business of those institutions, they would do a great service. Well, to show their disposition to meet that desire, his hon. friend the Member for Mid. Antrim last year brought in a Bill regulating clubs, and he was glad to say that it received universal support of hon. Members, and, in fact, the support of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, it being a Bill which protected their interests. In 1897, a memorial was presented to the Lord-Lieutenant asking him to use his influence with the Government of the day to have the Bill passed. It was signed by thirteen Protestant bishops, sixteen Roman Catholic bishops, the moderator of the Presbyterian Synod, the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, fifteen of the nobility, twenty-one Members of Parliament, 1,036 clergymen, 1,018 magistrates, 291 doctors, 207 poor law guardians and town commissioners, 1,117 merchants and employers, and scores of public meetings had been held endorsing the provisions contained in the Bill, and asking the House to place it on the Statute Book for the purpose of making Ireland more sober than she was at the present time. Ireland was a very poor country. His hon. friends were always pleading the poverty of the country. They were desirous of legislating for the purpose of meeting the requirements of all the parties concerned, and he thought the Government in power were more disposed to meet certain sections in the country than the Government which some time since laid down the reins of office. It would be a good thing if they would reduce the drink bill, which was far larger than Ireland could afford. When they realised that 4,250,000 of people spent between £12,000,000 and £13,000,000 every year in drink, and that that expenditure came from the poorest of the poor in the country, they would quite understand why some of the poverty existed. He did not think any good came to temperance by exaggeration and he was not going to exaggerate the case; but he knew from personal observation in the country—north, south, east and west—that there was a universal opinion, from those in high social positions to the humblest in the land, that the opening of public-houses till eleven o'clock on Saturday nights was not an absolute necessity. The Licenced Victuallers' Association had sent out a circular stating that Saturdays were market days and that nine till eleven was the busiest time. In the Belfast shipbuilding yards the men were paid on Friday evenings, and they knew perfectly well that many of the workmen did not return to work till the Tuesday morning. If it was argued that men remained till eleven o'clock on Saturday night to spend the surplus money they had in drink he thought it was a very poor argument for the Licensed Victuallers' Association. As to the people who worked in mills, they were paid at twelve oclock on Saturday, and from twelve till nine o'clock was sufficient for the spending of any loose cash which might be necessary to gratify the tastes that these individuals had. As to the argument that it was market day, he might say for the information of hon. Members opposite that there was no such thing as marketing going on between nine and eleven o'clock at night. The persons who required to provide themselves with the necessaries of life for the week-end generally went out before nine o'clock, and if they did not go out till nine it was not because they were detained by their husbands being employed, it was simply carelessness, and it only required a little arranging to make purchases ealier. In 1882 a canvass was taken of the five cities with regard to the desirability of closing public-houses all day on Sunday. He would ask the House to pay attention to the figures which were given in that particular year in favour of Sunday closing. A vote had been taken in the large towns on the question of Sunday closing and he had the results. In Dublin there were 34,606 for and only 8,117 against; in Belfast 23,958 for and 3,912 against; in Cork 9,605 for and 1,870 against; in Limerick 5,604 for and 550 against and in Waterford 3,945 for and 290 against. These figures as far as the population was concerned proved beyond all doubt that the people were desirous that public-houses should be closed. Since his connection with the Bill he had had communications from all classes of people in Ireland who were in favour of it, and that day he had received telegrams from persons of all denominations including Roman Catholics, desiring that the Bill should have the favourable consideration of the House, and that it should be made an Act of Parliament so that its restrictions could be carried out. He could not for the life of him understand why any Irish Member should object to the Bill. The hon Member for East Clare made a memorable speech in 1903. He said he had travelled all over America and had answered many difficult questions, but he had never been able to reply to the charge of drunkenness in Ireland. They had to face the facts even though they told against their own country and countrymen, and there was no doubt that a great deal of poverty, hardship and distress in Ireland was due to over indulgence in alcoholic liquor. If hon. Members who opposed the Bill could show some justification for disregarding the will of the people in this respect and why restrictions should not be put on the sale of liquor he hoped they would do so on evidence which was incontrovertible. It was not merely a section or a trade he and his friends were representing. They spoke the mind of practically the whole country as to a measure that commended itself to the people. Great stress had been laid on the fact that in Scotland this policy had been pursued. He was not very conversant with the practice there, but he found from the annual report for 1897 that Captain Monro, the Government Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, said—

> "The effect of the early closing on peace and order has been so very satisfactory that it is to be regretted that it was not made more general, or indeed, absolute, instead of permissive, as it would, while improving peace and order, also have relieved the police in large cities and burghs earlier in the night to attend to the very important duty of patrolling and watching."

The object of the present Bill was simply to take two hours off Saturday night, to include the five large towns he had referred to in the Sunday Closing Act, and to make the *bona fide* traveller or the man who desired liquor to go a reasonable distance to secure refreshment. He appealed to the House to consider it not as a political question, but as one affecting the good of the country. If he might say it without sarcasm they had now in power a temperance Government — a Government which favoured temperance reform for the whole of the United Kingdom, and which had a disposition to be favourable towards reasonable temperance legislation that would not inflict hardship or undue restrictions on the rights of fellow citizens. He asserted that these provisions in the Bill were not undue restrictions on the liberties of anyone. The measure was only a fair and honest attempt to meet the difficulties of the situation, and to reduce the evils of Saturday night drinking as far as possible. If hon. Members looked to the returns from Ireland they would find that since the Sunday Closing Act came into force there had been less drinking on Sundays. He need hardly appeal to the Labour Members, because they were almost all entirely in favour of temperance reform, and with them it was not a question of expediency but of practical politics. This was a question on which he had not the slightest doubt as to what the Government reply would be, but a favourable reply would not alter the situation as far as the practice in Ireland was concerned. The Bill purported to try and limit the dangers and temptations to which Irishmen were exposed. It might be said that they would go to shebeens or clubs if the Bill came into operation. He did not know why that should be so, if the law was strictly carried out. He knew hundreds of men who went as a matter of course for company's sake into public-houses, and to suggest that when they left the public-houses at nine o'clock they would go to shebeens was an insult to them. The people who went to shebeens were not the people whom they were trying to legislate for. It was no argument to say that the provisions of the Bill would result in more shebeen drinking. He left the Bill in the hands of the House to deal with entirely on the grounds on which it was proposed. It was a non-Party Bill, it was not of a religious character, and he was glad to say that the entire Ulster Party were in its favour. Any opposition there was to it would come from the Nationalist Members. They had to meet the facts. He represented not a bigoted temperance Party but a great proportion of the opinion of the country, and if the House would accept the Bill it would go far towards alleviating the grievances that existed, it would reduce the enormous amount that was spent on drink every year, and it would tend to make the people of the country more happy and prosperous.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said he was proud to support the Second Reading of the Bill which had been proposed so eloquently, clearly and convincingly by his hon. friend the Member for South Belfast. It had been truly said that the Irish Members differed deeply and sharply on many questions, but there was one consolation that these collisions in debate between Irish Members frequently enlivened the proceedings in the House to hon. Members from England and Scotland and made political life more interesting. There were many vital issues on which the Irish Members differed; but, on the other hand, there were some on which they could largely agree, and he hoped that on the Bill now before the House they could find common ground. At all events, he could speak for the general feeling of the people in Ulster; and in behalf of the Unionist Party in that province he could say that they gave this Bill their hearty and loyal support. The main provisions of the Bill were that Sunday closing was to be applied to all the large towns in Ireland as it had been successfully applied in the small towns; and also that all public-houses should be closed at 9 o'clock on Saturday evenings. As to Sunday closing, he had never been able to understand why the large towns had been specially left out of the operation of the Act of 1878, because it was just in these large towns, which attracted young people from the country, that special provisions were wanted to diminish the temptations of town life. He most heartily and cordially supported the Bill. If he did not do so he would be false to every pledge he had given at many elections, false to the great constituency which he represented, and false also to the conscientious convictions of the great majority of the people of Ulster.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. J. P. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) said he rose to move that this Bill be read a second time that day six months. He would like, however, to congratulate the hon. Member who moved the Second Reading on the moderation of his speech, especially when he knew that that hon. Gentleman was an out-and-out temperance man. He knew that if he had his own way he would not be content with closing the public-houses on Sunday and two hours earlier on Saturdays, but would deny the right of any person to have a glass of whiskey or a bottle of stout if he desired it at any time. The hon. Member was opposed to the sale of alcoholic liquors of any kind. He, himself, had lived for a very long time among the working classes of Ireland, and was as anxious as the hon. Member for South Belfast to promote sobriety and temperance; but he did not believe that this Bill would tend in that direction. He protested against the attempt to prevent the people from being able to obtain fresh and wholesome stimulants for their meals on Sundays. Such a thing could not take place in this country. His conviction was that if they closed the public-houses on Sunday the way would be opened up to many abuses, and that the Bill would turn out to be a curse. The hon. Member had said that he represented the opinion of Ulster in this matter. Now, he happened to be in Ulster a short time ago, and he was responsible in this House for a Bill to provide for the closing of the public-houses on one day of the year—Christmas Day—but the Government of the day insisted in putting into that Bill the *bona-fide* traveller clause; and he knew that a greater curse had never been imposed than by that clause. He was told that the suburban districts of the large towns were reeking with drunkenness on Christmas Day. [AN HON. MEMBER: You did not include Bangor.] He did not know the meaning of the interruption; but he knew that the hon. Gentleman, the mover of this Bill, perpetuated in it the operation of the *bona-fide* travellers' clause. The hon. Gentleman had not the courage to remove it altogether. And they knew what the result would be in all the suburban districts of the great towns of Ireland if this Bill passed. Ireland had practically Sunday closing at the present time, with the exception of five large cities. He objected to Ireland being made the experimental ground for particular legislation. If English Members were anxious to see the people sober, why not first legislate in this direction for London and the other large cities in England? Let the English Members first show an example to Ireland. He had seen no reason to change his views from the time that he gave evidence before the Royal Commission as the representative of the working classes of Dublin, viz., that so long as the working classes in Ireland had not decent habitable houses, they must go for their recreation to the public-houses. The public-house was practically the poor man's club. He himself wanted to see the working men going to their homes at reasonable hours; but if the public-houses were closed on a Saturday night when a working man wanted to get a little fresh air and to obtain a little refreshment, he could not obtain it and he might resort to a place where the liquor and the conditions under which it was supplied would be a detriment to him. When this Bill was last before Parliament one of the Unionist papers in Dublin—the *Irish Times*—with whose opinions, of course, he did not always agree—in criticising the claim that early closing would diminish drunkenness, said—

> "But is the Bill likely to achieve its object? We confess to a conviction that while the Bill, if it became law, will shut up the public houses at nine o'clock, it will open what will be infinitely more damageable to the working classes—a set of clubs which will be the most glorified and successful public-houses ever established."

He was sure that the mover of the Bill did not desire to see such a state of things as that existing in Ireland. Anyone who had experience of life in big cities must know that if such a state of things were set up it would be a menace to the public welfare. It had been said that there was no demand in the City of Dublin for this concession, because there was no marketing after nine o'clock. But anyone who had experience of Dublin knew that there was a great deal of marketing after that hour. [AN HON. MEMBER: It is not necessary.] He did not say it was necessary, but it was the custom of the people. No doubt the House would pass the Bill, but if they passed it did they think they would make drunkenness less prevalent in Ireland? He would give another quotation from the *Irish Times*—

> "The vast population of working men with Saturday night 'on their hands' and a free Sunday before them, will have a real interest in the formation of such establishments (meaning clubs), and we honestly confess that we shudder to think what will occur when the genuine working man's club comes into general existence and favour and has given up to it almost the entire of Saturday night as a monopoly."

It might be urged that such a state of things could not exist, but he knew of working men's clubs, and other clubs which were used in the name of working men's clubs, which had been kept open all night and where many abuses existed. Dealing with the inconvenience to the public the same journal said—

> "Very great inconvenience will result to a large number of traders, publicans, grocers, restaurant and hotel owners, should that Bill become law, for if such parties are to carry on their business with safety, under the new regulations they will have almost to remodel their premises, and at serious cost maintain a vigilance hitherto unnecessary. If we were sure that anything like a corresponding proportionate benefit would accrue to the working classes we would not hesitate to say that such a consideration would not be entertained for a moment, but we do not believe that the closing of the public-houses at nine o'clock on Saturday nights will bring forth the good results which the advocates of the measure anticipate."

It was an intolerable thing to think that he or any other working man walking along the streets and requiring refreshment should be debarred from getting it. What would be the result of this early closing? The liquor would be brought to the homes. Why should not a working man be able to ask his friends to come and have a drink? There was nothing wrong in it, but the effect of this Bill would be to bring liquor into the homes for consumption, and children would have a temptation set before them which was not a desirable one. Children should not have alcoholic liquor brought under their notice until they came to the age of reason, and he objected to the houses of the working classes being made, as the Bill would have a tendency to make them, places where liquor would be brought on Saturday evenings and on Sundays. He thought that the hour of nine o'clock for closing in a large city was not reasonable. He also opposed the Bill on the ground that they were promised legislation of a kind which would enable them to look after such matters in their own country for themselves. He thought they should wait until that time came. This was not a matter with which Englishmen who did not understand them should deal. They should, he thought, begin at home in this matter and set Ireland an example. An hon. Member had spoken about America and said that Sunday Closing existed there. Well, he had been in that country. He knew that drink could be got there at all hours of the night and day. He was speaking of what he knew. He had been in New York, and when he came out of a printing office at half-past two in the morning he had been taken to a place where drink was obtained under conditions in which it was not desirable that it should be supplied in Ireland. That was not a condition of things which he desired to see in his country, as he thought that licensed houses should be under proper restraint and control. He did not think that this Bill would be the means of stopping drunkenness. He repudiated the statement that the Irishman was fond of drink, though no doubt he was fond of company. The working man must, however, have somewhere to go, and until they were able to give him some proper places of amusement and proper conditions of living all the legislation that was passed would not have the effect which the promoters of this Bill desired. Therefore he was strongly opposed to the measure. In his constituency he had heard no word in support of the Bill except from temperance advocates, zealous and earnest no doubt, but who would deny to any man the right to take any kind of liquor. Twenty years ago he represented the Trades Council as its President, and he was sent there to protest against the proposal to close public-houses in the City of Dublin. The working classes had not made any representation on the subject of this Bill, although he would not be so unfair as to say that he did not know that there were some working men in favour of it. But those were temperance men, and the man who drank with moderation would feel that it was a hardship if he were deprived of his refreshment. He had no interest in the sale of liquor, but he said that this Bill instead of being a blessing would prove a curse. Consequently he was bound to vote against it, and he begged to move that it be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) seconded the Motion for the rejection. He should like to say at the outset that although he had arrived at the same conclusion on other grounds he was from the first predisposed against efforts of legislation of this kind. The attitude, the language and the methods of procedure of those who put them forward seemed to be founded upon a desire to injure what was called "The trade." The things which were said and the allusions which were made from time to time predisposed him before he began to think of the merits of the question, against proposals of this kind. He was also not predisposed to legislation of this nature by the fact that some of the speeches implied an exceptional degree of drunkenness on the part of the people of Ireland. It was quite inaccurate to say that the Irish people were an exceptionally drunken people, and he for one was not disposed to view favourably measures of this character put forward on that ground, and he desired publicly to protest against such assertions. Taking the English, the Irish, and the Scottish people in comparison, the Irish people were the most sober of the three. That was proved by statistics, and therefore it was not necessary for him to labour the point, as he did not think his assertion would be denied. This Bill had no authority in its favour. It was true that it had been read a second time more than once, but he observed that on only one occasion had a majority of Irish Members supported this proposal. [Mr. T. W. Russell: Or opposed it.] He believed the majority of Irish Members had in most instances voted against it, and he observed that the majorities in favour of the measure had been dwindling ones. In 1883 the majority was 156; in 1891 it was 146; in 1895 it was ninety-seven, and in 1897 it was twenty-seven. In the latter year of the fifty-one Members who voted representing Ireland twenty-six voted for it and twenty-five against it. In fact, 1897 was the only occasion when the majority of Irish Members voted in favour of the Bill, and then the majority was only one.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that in 1903 there was a majority in favour of the measure not only of the Irish Members but of the Nationalist Members.

Mr. CLANCY said no doubt the hon. Gentleman had verified the statement and therefore he would accept it at once, and would withdraw anything he had said to the contrary. He could not, however, understand what authority the promoters of this Bill had to bring it forward. The Royal Commission did not recommend the Bill. That body never recommended total Sunday closing, but said that although there might be a necessity for some further restriction in the hours of Sunday trading in the five exempted cities, public opinion did not justify total Sunday closing.

That was the recommendation of the majority of the Royal Commission, but members of the temperance party did not seem to realise it. There was a very remarkable conference called a few months ago at the instance of the ex-chief inspector of the Irish Constabulary, Sir Andrew Reid. He suggested what he called a round table conference at which all parties were to be present, but from which the publican party were excluded, although they suggested they ought to be present and protested against their exclusion. That seemed to point to the fact that there was some hostility to the members of the trade; at any rate they were left outside the conference. That conference, after some considerable discussion in the public Press, met and recommended that in the five large cities of Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, the licensing authority should upon the requisition of not less than one-fourth of the people who had a right to vote under the franchise take a *plébiscite* upon the question of closing on Sunday together, of reducing the hours, and of changing the present hours. They did not recommend absolute, total, closing in the five exempted cities, but rather local option. This was not a Bill for local option, but for the total closing of the licensed houses in the five exempted cities, and, therefore, he said the proposal was based upon no semblance of authority either in the Report of the Royal Commission on Licensing or the Report of Sir Andrew Reid's Conference. He confessed that although he had protested against the insinuation, and sometimes the open allegation that Ireland was a particularly drunken country, still too much drunkenness prevailed in Ireland. He would like to put an end to that, because of the moral and material evils it brought in its train. But the only question for him was what was the best way of proceeding to attain that end. He did not believe that these extreme and fanatical proposals would ever accomplish it. His hon. friend who moved the rejection of the Bill had alluded to the failure of these devices in Scotland, but he would like to put a few figures to the House to show how complete the failure of the Sunday Closing Act had been in its operation in Glasgow. In the year 1904–5 the average number of arrests on Sundays in the five exempted cities in Ireland was twenty-nine. The total arrests for the year were only 1,531. In Glasgow from May 1st to October 17th, less than six months, there were apprehended for drunkenness in the vicinity of clubs—that was very significant—2,047. In the same period 154 persons were charged with hawking spirits in the streets, and there were fifteen prosecutions against bogus clubs and shebeening. That was to say, 1,531 arrests were made in the whole year in the five exempted cities of Ireland, against 2,047 in Glasgow in six months, yet the total population of the five exempted cities was 892,422, and the population in Glasgow was 760,450. Therefore if the Glasgow case showed anything it showed that total closing on Sunday, under which no opportunity was given for drinking legitimately in public houses led to drunkenness instead of preventing it. Those figures had greatly impressed him, and he would like to hear the answer to them. He was not a fanatical opponent of the Bill. He would like to be convinced by argument, but so far as he could see there was no answer to that argument. He would like to know also why the Bill had been introduced in the face of the finding of Sir Andrew Reid's Conference. He wondered whether it was because the Conference did not carry out the wishes of the extreme temperance reformers of Ireland, but that they nevertheless hoped to enforce their ideals by the aid of English and Scottish votes. The temperance party were, he thought, unwise in the efforts they were making for extreme temperance legislation. Until the last few years they had never been able to carry any Bill except those in which they had the aid of the public at large. Every extreme temperance proposal had been defeated in the House, but, on the other hand, since 1900 by pursuing a sensible and middle course they had obtained several measures of very great advantage to the real cause of temperance. He desired to urge upon the temperance party the fact that the proposals of a Bill like this were calculated to retard rather than to advance temperance reform. Even this session an effort to legislate further in this direction had been defeated, and he was informed that an offer was made in that case to an authorised agent of the temperance party to permit the Drink Bill, as it was termed last year, to go through this House on certain conditions. Why was that offer rejected ? He would like to know that, because in his opinion the real object that was animating the so-called temperance reformers would be found to be not what they said but some unaccountable desire to be revenged on a trade with which they did not agree. These proposals were not likely to effect their end. His own view was that another road must be pursued, as another road had been found to be necessary in the State of Maine, where total prohibition was commenced. It was not so long ago since drunkenness was rife among the wealthy people of this country and of Scotland. He remembered reading in Dean Ramsay's memoirs that 100 years ago the Bench and the Bar went on circuit drunk and remained drunk until they returned, and that they kept an official whose business it was to loosen their neckties when they fell under the table. The Lord-Advocate was informed sufficiently to know that that was no invention of his own. What put an end to that state of things ? Not Sunday closing, not Saturday closing, not shortening the hours in which drink might be obtained. It was because drunkenness became the reverse of repectable, so that it became a social crime to be drunk, and employers of labour refused to employ people of whose sobriety they had not the strongest guarantee. It was by some similar revulsion of feeling that the prevention of drunkenness in the humbler classes must be brought about. He thought it was a mistake to begin this experiment by making these extreme proposals apply to Ireland. If at all, why should they not begin with the centre of the Empire ? Would such a proposal be carried for London, and if it was carried how would it work ? He did not believe there was a single Member of the House who would guarantee that there would be less drunkenness or more self-righteousness if such a Bill were carried, nor could such a Bill be carried out in any of the large cities. And when they had, as in Dublin, a large part of the Sunday already closed against the consumption of drink on licensed premises, and when they had in the country districts licensed houses closed altogether on Sundays, he thought hon. Gentlemen before they voted for such a Bill as this against the weight of public opinion ought seriously to consider whether or not they had not with the present laws gone far enough in that direction. When temperance reformers said that such a Bill would have great effect in preventing the consumption of alcoholic liquor, that in some places it would decrease it by three-fourths and in others stop it altogether, the meaning of that was to his mind was that it would take away the trade of the publican. Although there might not be any harm in taking away the trade of the publican he did say that to deprive any man of his business without compensation was nothing more nor less than robbery. He reminded the House that in this matter the Irish publican stood in a much stronger position than the publican of England The law of England was that a licence could be refused any year. In Ireland it could not be refused. A legal decision existed in Ireland by which a licence must be renewed from year to year unless the applicant was a man of bad character. The effect of legislation of this character would be to deprive these people of their property which Parliament had given them a right to retain, and to do that was simple robbery, He begged to second the rejection of the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Nannetti.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that before he proceeded to deal with the question itself, he desired to say a word with regard to the complaint of the hon. Member for North Dublin, that the publicans of Dublin were not allowed to take part in a conference held in that city to consider the question to which the Bill referred. He (Mr. Russell) wished to inform the hon. Member that he had himself felt so strongly that the publicans ought to have been summoned and given a part in that conference that he took no part in it himself, so that the hon. Gentleman and he did not differ on that point. He proposed to deal first with what might be called the history of this question. The Irish Sunday Closing Act was passed in 1878 after a fierce and prolonged struggle in the country and in that House. The Tory Party, which was then in power, was by no means favourable to legislation of this character, and during the progress of the Bill through Committee five large towns were exempted from its provisions. So that as the Act passed, Sunday closing was applied to the whole of the country except those five large towns. It was passed provisionally for five years. At the end of those years a proposal was made to renew the Act, and the friends of Sunday closing in the House then sought to include the five towns in the Bill. It was quite true that they had always been defeated in the House in making that proposal; but he thought the House ought to be told what had actually taken place. The Bill had not been defeated because the House had been opposed to its principle, but by the forms of the House which had always prevented the desire of the House being carried into effect. In the year 1888 the question came up again. For the first time he then moved and carried the Second Reading of a Bill to close public-houses on Saturdays at nine o'clock. That Bill and the Sunday Closing Bill were sent upstairs to a Select Committee presided over by the then Attorney-General for Ireland. That was a representative Committee. and it reported in favour of total Sunday closing in all Ireland, and in favour of early closing on Saturday. The Bill was defeated by time and by nothing else. What did the late Prime Minister say next session when it was brought in again? He had been strongly impressed by the agitation in the country when he was Chief Secretary, and when the Bill came up for discussion he said he had been told by Mr. Justice Madden, the Chairman of the Committee, that there was something approaching unanimity of public opinion in Ireland in favour of this legislation and under those circumstances he should support again in the lobby the opinion which both officially and unofficially he had held and supported for some years. That was the position taken up by the late Prime Minister, who had learned his lesson during the five years he had been Chief Secretary for Ireland. It was asked upon what authority the Bill was based. There was the authority of the Select Committee of that House. They had the Bill practically as it stood to-day sent down from Mr. Justice Madden's Select Committee. And they had the decision of the House in agreeing to the Second Reading of the Bill. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford on May 12th, 1897, said that he had always been a strenuous supporter of the principle of Sunday Closing, but he was not clear that it would be practicable or wise to have total closing on Sundays in the large towns. The hon. and learned Member had also said that he did not know whether the present hours of opening were too long, though probably a case for shortening these hours might be made out, but if such a case were to be made out it must be done before the Licensing Commission, and the Bill should be postponed until Lord Peel's Commission reported. The Commission had now reported, and where did they stand? Let them take the constitution of that Commission. Upon it there were seven representatives of the trade, avowedly appointed as such, and a certain number of temperance representatives, and then there was a balancing number of what were called neutrals. That Commission heard the whole evidence from Ireland, including the evidence of police, distinguished citizens, bishops and priests. What did they report? There was a majority and a minority report. The minority, headed by Lord Peel, reported in favour of what was proposed in the Bill now before the House. The majority report was in favour of ten o'clock closing on Saturday and of lengthening the hours of closing on Sundays in the five large towns. They politely called *bona fide* travellers a nuisance and favoured legislation for amending that part of the law. He was asked what authority this Bill had. It was founded upon the report of a Select Committee of this

House, upon decisions on the Second Reading and upon Lord Peel's Commission, because whatever section of the Report they considered it would be seen that they were not satisfied with the existing state of things. That was the authority upon which this Bill was based. They did not, however, stand upon that authority alone. What about public opinion in Ireland? Hon. Members said there was no authority for this Bill, but he would like to ask what authority was there for the opposition to this measure except that which emanated from the licensed liquor trade? Was there a bishop from any part of Ireland against the Bill? Was there a Resolution against it from any public body whatever?

AN HON. MEMBER: Can the hon. Gentleman show a single Resolution in favour of the Bill from any public body in Ireland?

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL replied that he had not got any such Resolution, but that was not because the Bill was not favoured by public bodies in Ireland, but because it was not known that the Bill was coming on that day. It was down third on the Order Paper, but the two Bills which held places before it had been withdrawn. He could say without hesitation that he had never known during his forty years experience of public life in Ireland a single body, apart from the licensed liquor trade, that was prepared to fight this question.

MR. NANNETTI: There have been public meetings against it in Phœnix Park and also Resolutions passed by the Trades Councils in Dublin.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that hon. Members opposite in opposing this Bill had no large consensus of public opinion behind them except that which was engineered by the licensed liquor trade. The conference in Dublin which had been referred to consisted of delegates from different parts of Ireland, and they were all convinced that if nothing was done in this matter the drink traffic would do very serious damage to Ireland. He had never said that the people of Ireland drank more than the people of England or Scotland, because per head of the population they drank less. It should not, however, be overlooked that the people of England and Scotland drank out of their abundance whilst the people of Ireland drank out of their poverty. Emigration was depleting the population in Ireland and lunacy was increasing at a pace that was causing thoughtful men to tremble. What was the testimony of Dr. Connolly Worman, the resident medical superintendent of the Richmond Asylum? He said that but for delirium tremens there would be no necessity to enlarge that asylum. The drink system was undermining and aggravating every evil in Ireland. Because a powerful trade was organised in every Irish town and village, were the representatives of the Irish people to stand by and do nothing? Hon. Members opposite professed that they were entirely in favour of temperance, but the difference between those who were temperance men and those who said they were was that the former tried to do something and the latter opposed everything. Let them take the Temperance Conference in Dublin. Would any hon. Member say that this was a question upon which the Churches in Ireland had no right to intervene? Were they ready to take up that position? This was pre-eminently a question for the Churches, because it was largely a question of morals. Drink was degrading and ruining the people of Ireland. What was the position of the Churches? Could any Nationalist Member get up and say that they had the sanction of a single bishop, priest, or minister in the whole of Ireland for opposing temperance legislation? They could not say that. Archbishop Walsh and Cardinal Logue hesitated about supporting legislation of this kind in the past until the clubs could be controlled, but both those distinguished prelates now took the ground that as clubs were under control, legislation was necessary to deal with this appalling evil. They had been told that they ought to wait until there was a Legislature in Ireland to deal with this question. Could Nationalist Members point to another single question upon which they had said that? In regard to land and labour and education, they were ready to trust this House, but immediately they came to the liquor traffic they desired to leave it to a Home Rule Parliament. Were hon. Members serious in makng that proposal? They could not pick and choose and say one question was to be settled in Ireland and all other questions in this Parliament. They had behind them the weight of the whole of the churches in Ireland in favour of this proposal. Would Members opposite affirm that the Gaelic League was in favour of the drink party? He was glad to say that that League was one of the strongest temperance influences in Ireland and it was making a powerful impression upon the people. They had all the moral influences on their side in Ireland, and the only people against them were a band of drink-sellers fighting for their own hand and their own interest. Was this Bill a reasonable measure? There had been a great change of opinion in Ireland. The *bona-fide* traveller had become such a stupendous nuisance that people everywhere were prepared to abolish him right away without any consideration whatever. Men who disliked Sunday closing had, in view of the great nuisance of the *bona-fide* traveller, come to demand this. All round the large towns Sunday was turned into a pandemonium by the *bona fide* traveller. Property in Black Rock, Dundrum, and all the suburbs had been depreciated, and the effect of that pandemonium had been to make a great impression. People were in favour of this proposal who were not in favour of it when the fight took place in 1878. But since then the trade had organised, and in every village and town in Ireland there was a trade political association which openly asserted that its trade was its politics. They came at the last election to him of all men in the world. They desired to pledge him against all this. Well, he need not tell the House what answer he gave. At all events other men gave way, and it was no secret that that trade organisation was coercing many politicians in Ireland to do that which they did not wish to do. That showed the change that had taken place in public opinion. There were two kinds of opposition to this Bill. There was the kind of opposition which said boldly that such legislation was tyrannical, and they would not have it. But there were also other men who said the Bill went too far. So far as the first class was concerned, he believed it was the duty of the State to make it easy to do right. At 9 o'clock on Saturday night the marketing in those big towns was practically over, and they did not think it was a proper preparation for the Sunday to have those orgies. Lord Peel's Committee had recommended that the hours should be shortened. To close the public-houses only at ten would be a great step forward. But those who took a stand against the Bill, because it was trying on Ireland what would not be tolerated in England and Scotland, could not be listened to. And though most of their opponents were prepared to say that they were willing to treat with them on the question of hours, that was a matter for Committee and not for opposition on Second Reading. If he might go back to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, why did he persist in saying that he objected to Ireland being experimented on? Scotland had had this legislation for fifty years. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: With what result?] That was not the question. He was dealing with the question of an experiment, and they were not making an experiment on Ireland that had not been tried in other parts of the King's dominions. And whatever might be the result, one strong fact stood out, that there had never been from either Scotland or Wales a Member bold enough to propose to repeal those Acts. He thought that spoke very strongly for the actual result. That disposed of the argument about an experiment. Then the hon. Member for College Green had said the working men had no habitable home to go to. Did the hon. Member imagine that a man guzzling and drinking in a public-house up to eleven o'clock on Saturday night was the way to secure a habitable home either for himself or his family? Did not the hon. Member know that thousands of homes might be happy but for this very guzzling and drinking? Then the hon. Member said he wished the working men to have opportunities of obtaining fresh air. But what kind of atmosphere was found in a public-house from nine to eleven o'clock on a Saturday night? Would his hon. friend consider the situation? Both his hon. friend and he knew something about this subject. They knew what they were talking about. He had gone on tours of inspection. Fresh air! Why, the atmosphere of these places was perfectly fœtid. It was not at such places that a workman or any other man would get fresh air, and the moral atmosphere was as bad as the physical.

Mr. J. P. NANNETTI said his point was that if a working man wished to take a walk on Saturday night he was entitled to get refreshments if he wanted them.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL asked whether his hon. friend thought that a workman could not take a walk without tumbling into a public-house between nine and eleven o'clock on a Saturday night. His hon. friend had quoted the *Irish Times*. That might have been very well for the House of Commons if no Irish Members had been here. The *Irish Times* was until quite recently the property of Sir John Arnott, one of the biggest brewers in Ireland, and even now that it was a limited company he was the largest shareholder. Why did not the hon. Gentleman quote the *Daily Express*, which was owned by Lord Ardilaun? What was the use of quoting those who had a vested interest in the perpetuation of this iniquitous business? His hon. friend must really re-cast his arguments. They had done duty before, and were out of date. Let them take the question of clubs. What was the use of quoting the *Irish Times* of a date prior to the passing of the Clubs Act about a nuisance that had been dealt with by law and abated? His hon. friend must really get up this question afresh. These old arguments would not do. They had been blown out of the water dozens of times. The hon. Member for North Dublin was wiser. His arguments were of a totally different character, though equally fallacious. The hon. Member for North Dublin thought that they could not possibly shorten the hours of public-houses in Ireland on Sundays or other days without giving the publican compensation, and he pointed out with perfect truth that the Clitheroe decision in Ireland had given the publican a vested interest which he had not before possessed. But it was an entirely new doctrine in this House or anywhere else to say that a trade which existed for the public convenience, and the hours of which were regulated by Parliament, was not subject to change or alteration. That was a perfectly impossible doctrine to propound in this House, and therefore as in the past so in the future, if Parliament thought it necessary to reduce the hours on Saturday or Sunday the publican's claim to compensation was absolutely non-existent. They were dealing with a new House of Commons, and he ventured to think they were dealing with a new House that would not be unfriendly. He had not the slightest connection with any temperance organisation in Ireland, and he was not speaking in their name or for them; but he was speaking as one who had been in this fight for forty years, and he was fulfilling the mandate of a great constituency in dealing with this question as he was to-day. He appealed to this House to save his hon. friends opposite from themselves. Just let them imagine what drink was doing in Ireland and everywhere else. Let them think of the poor farmers of Ireland on market day, which generally was Saturday. They went into the towns, and sold their little produce, afterwards meeting one friend after another and spending the money they could not afford in the public-house—money that ought to go to their homes and wives, and the welfare of their children. Crime often followed as a result. He appealed to this House again for a chance for this Bill. He pleaded with the House of Commons to-day to give them a chance. He had fought for land reform and other reforms for Ireland quite as heartily as hon. Gentlemen opposite, but he said unhesitatingly now that if the publican was to get what the landlord had been deprived of, if the benefit of the reduction of rent was to go to the public-house and not to the home of the farmer, then land reform might be looked on from different standpoints. He had great hopes for Ireland, for a new life was stirring this whole country. The Gaelic League of which he had spoken was bringing that life to fruition. He implored the House to give Ireland a helping hand to-day to get rid of these dreadful temptations against which the strongest human nature was often powerless, and against which such human nature as existed in Ireland, free, generous and hospitable, was wholly unable to cope.

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin Harbour) said the speech of the hon. Member for South Tyrone was not so much an argument for Sunday closing and early closing on Saturday night as an argument for the total prohibition of the sale of drink in all houses in Ireland; and the same might be said of all the arguments advanced in support of the Bill. If Irishmen were so weak that they could not resist the temptation offered by the open door of a public-house at nine or ten o'clock, then the evil and the danger were just the same at two, three or six o'clock in the day. If Parliament made up its mind that there must be total prohibition, not in Ireland alone, but in the whole of the United Kingdom, they would have a direct issue to face. He doubted very much if Parliament was going to face that issue in the near future. What was the justification for legislation of this kind? It was simply that drink was abused, and that some men became drunk, but he failed to see in that an argument for exceptional legislation. From beginning to end of the discussion to-day there had not been a single allegation that drunkenness was on the increase in Ireland, or that the condition of things in the towns and rural districts of Ireland was exceptional as compared with the towns and rural districts of other parts of the United Kingdom. Even though the majority of the people in the towns of Ireland were in favour of this legislation, he would regard it as an act of tyranny on the part of the majority to prevent a man from taking the refreshment he was entitled to take so long as he did not abuse the privilege. Legislation for the regulation of the liquor traffic had gone so far that in Dublin the time of the police was largely occupied, not merely in dealing with cases of drunkenness, but in making visits practically every evening to licensed premises. The way in which the law was carried out was in itself a very strong inducement to the people in Ireland not to put more power in the hands of the police. The law in this matter, which was originally intended to be useful, had become oppressive. He had been a teetotaler all his life, but he did not see why this attempt should be made by Act of Parliament to impose oppressive terms on those who did not agree with what was now proposed. Temperance societies were making enormous progress in Ireland, but it would appear that those who preached temperance were not content with the excellent work which was being done. If working men living in the large towns wanted drink on Sunday they could get it by sending out for it. Under this Bill it would be necessary to get it in the night before, and if that was done the chances were that it would not last till Sunday. This would place working men at a disadvantage as compared with people who lived in opulence and had cellars of their own. The hon. Member for South Belfast had stated that working men who were paid on Friday did not return to work in some cases till Tuesday. That seemed to be an argument in favour of closing public-houses, not only on Sunday, but on Monday morning as well. It was true that some workers were paid on Friday night, or early on Saturday, but there were a large number of people in the city of Dublin who could not do their marketing till after eight o'clock on Saturday. If it was the fact that drunkenness was largely diminishing, why should these people be subjected to the inconvenience which this Bill would impose? He believed in advancing the cause of temperance by appealing to the reason and commonsense of the people, and he believed further that certain legislative efforts were calculated to make the cause of temperance distasteful and objectionable to those who desired to see an improvement brought about in the habits of the people.

*MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.) said he trusted he would find himself one of the majority in favour of this Bill. He considered it a very good measure. There was hardly a line in it which would require amendment or improvement in Committee.

The hon. Member for Dublin Harbour appeared to consider that working men would be greatly wronged by the deprivation of the privilege of Sunday drinking in the five excepted cities. He had not heard that the working men in the other parts of Ireland had objected to Sunday closing. In the other towns, and in the rural parts of Ireland, so far as his observation had gone, Sunday closing had been a very great success. Sunday was now all over the country a day of sobriety and tranquillity, except in the excepted cities. As a citizen of Dublin, one of the excepted cities, he ardently wished to see that Sunday tranquillity extended to the metropolis, and also to the other excepted cities. The hon. Member for Dublin County North had suggested that it would be unjust to deprive the Irish publican of his Sunday trade without compensation. Owing to a decision, the correctness of which was the subject of some doubt, the Irish publican had got into a position which the English publicans did not enjoy. By the decision in Clitheroe's case it was held that an Irish publican was entitled to a renewal of his licence unless he had been guilty of some misconduct in the carrying on of his business, or unless some exception could be taken to his character. That had come to be the accepted law in Ireland, because no one had taken an appeal to the House of Lords. He believed that if an appeal were taken to the House of Lords, the law in Ireland would be restored to uniformity with that of England on the basis of the judgment given in the case of Sharp *v.* Wakefield. Assuming, however, that the Irish publicans were in a better position than the English publicans, was it not rather late in the day to suggest that the Irish publicans could not be deprived of their Sunday trade without compensation, when they considered that the publicans not in the excepted cities had been deprived of their Sunday trade without compensation? If they could be deprived of their Sunday trade without compensation, why should the publicans, in the five excepted cities, be treated differently from those all over the country? The liquor trade was highly organised and powerful, with its headquarters in Dublin, and it was always able to secure a certain amount of support, owing to that organisation, from some of the Members for the City of Dublin. But Members from other parts of Ireland, who were able to express the views of their constituents, and not the views of the Licensed Victuallers Association, were practically unanimous in favour of the provision to get rid of the exemption of the five cities. He thought the other part of the Bill which provided for the restricting of the trade on Saturday night to nine o'clock was even more beneficial because it was a more general proposal. He had heard the argument as to the convenience of working men engaged in marketing. There was nothing in the Bill which proposed to close the shops of butchers, bakers, and other tradesmen where in the ordinary sense marketing was usually carried on. He thought it would be a very good thing indeed for all classes, if it was necessary to do marketing late on Saturday night, that they should do it in shops which did not lend themselves to the sale of drink. He had received a communication stating that there were a number of shops where licences were held which would be seriously inconvenienced in their business, outside of the drink trade, if this Bill were passed. He knew that from a mistaken policy, in the past, licences had been granted to shops where hardware, agricultural implements, or drapery goods were sold in country towns. He thought it would be one of the most beneficial effects of the Bill if it hampered these shops in their trade. Of all classes of public-houses those were the most dangerous, because people went in, it might be, for the purpose of buying drapery goods, but, finding a spirit counter in the place, they were tempted to drink. The objection formerly taken to Sunday closing, and to the restriction of the hours of public houses on Saturday, that clubs would be multiplied, did not now hold good, for all clubs where drink was sold in Ireland had now to be registered and licensed. It was very well known that if a club was carried on merely for the purpose of supplying drink, the justices would not renew the licence. The third portion of the Bill dealt with the *bona fide* traveller. A *bona fide* traveller was understood to be one who drank to travel, but in practice he was found to be one who travelled to drink. The limit of three miles seemed to be absolutely absurd in these days of bicycles and motor cars. The result of the three mile limit had been, as the Lord Mayor of Dublin had pointed out, to cause great inconvenience and demoralisation in little towns near the large excepted cities. The present Bill made a very beneficial change in increasing the limit to seven miles. It also contained the even more useful provision of providing a sort of test as to whether a person was really taking a refreshment of an alcoholic character for the purpose of travelling, or merely for the sake of drinking. It was proposed that no person claiming to be a *bona fide* traveller "shall be served with intoxicating liquor unless he at the same time orders and pays for a meal." These words might require amending in Committee, for some might consider that a few biscuits constituted a meal. This proposal might be amended by providing that the value of the meal ordered should at least be equal to the value of the drink ordered. This Bill would, he hoped, deliver Dublin from the abominable drinking that went on, and enable working men to carry home a greater proportion of their wages on Saturday when they were not tempted at night to go into the gin palaces of the city. The hon. Member for Dublin County North had referred to the case of Glasgow, but it was probable that a great deal of drunkenness there arose from "*bona fide* travellers" going out by tram cars from the area where the sale of drink was forbidden to places where they could get a quantity of drink. Then they were arrested for drunkenness. If the law in Scotland were amended that phase of Sunday drinking would soon pass away. The passing of this Bill would have the effect of making places in the neighbourhood of the large towns of Ireland as sober and tranquil on Sunday as other parts of the country.

*Mr. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.) said he strongly supported the Motion for the rejection of this measure. If anything were required to convince him of the correctness of that attitude, it would the eloquent but inconclusive speech of the hon. Member for South Tyrone. He indignantly and respectfully repudiated the suggestion of the mover of the Bill that anybody who opposed it did so in the interest of the licensed victuallers. He might as well suggest that those who supported the Bill were acting in the interest of the manufacturers of lemonade and ginger-pop, and other equally unwholesome and indigestible beverages. He regarded the Bill as a most lamentable illustration of the worst form of class legislation. He might characterise the Bill as a drunkards' Bill, because so far from minimising the evils of intemperance it presented every characteristic that would tend in the opposite direction. The arguments of the hon. Member for South Tyrone in favour of the Bill had fully convinced him of the soundness of his opposition to it. That hon. Member had ascribed the increase of lunacy, emigration, and consumption to drink. He would suggest to the House that if they wanted to diminish lunacy they should hesitate to pass legislation, which would make Ireland a country that, especially on Sunday, would be calculated to drive nine men in every ten out of their minds. In regard to emigration he would suggest that to prevent a man after walking seven miles getting a glass of beer, would be to justify such a man in seeking the more hospitable shores of a more civilised country. As to consumption, would it tend to lessen this scourge if men were discouraged from seeking fresh air on Sundays? The hon. Member for South Tyrone had also said that this matter was preeminently for the churches and for morals. He entirely agreed, and consequently maintained that it was not a question for this House. The hon. Gentleman stated that no bishop, priest, or minister in Ireland was opposed to the Bill, but the explanation might be that their churches and temples—he made this suggestion without disrespect—would be less deserted than they were now if people were prevented from taking their country walks and their bicycle rides. What the sponsors of this Bill wanted to do was to say that no man should have intoxicating liquor. Some day, if this sort of legislation became fashonable, the House of Commons would say that no man would be allowed to eat meat—which to his mind was a practice more degrading than drinking alcohol and led to greater crime. He made himself responsible for the statement that wherever this coercive legislation had been tried, it had never yet succeeded in diminishing the total consumption of alcoholic drinks. They had heard a great deal of the prohibition State of Maine; but there was the story of an English traveller who was going through that State, and asked a station-master if there was not one place in the whole of the State where he could get a drink. The station-master, pointing to a little house, replied—

> "That is the only place where you cannot get it."

The real spirit of the sponsors of this measure was that displayed in a conversation between Herbert Spencer and a Mohammedan as to what was the greatest sin in the world. The Mohammedan said the drink habit. Herbert Spencer asked his Mohammedan friend whether murder, outrage, and other crimes were not sins, to which the Mohammedan replied that he believed they might be, but that God was merciful! As to the Bill itself, the first provision, for practical purposes, decided that the public-houses were to be closed on Sundays. But why on Sunday? Because Sunday was the only day on which the working man—and this Bill did not interfere with the liberties of any other class—had time to visit his club, and it was infamous that it should be his only club. Then another clause provided that the public-houses were to be closed at nine o'clock on Saturday evenings. Why nine o'clock? Why not in the afternoon? It was admitted that many working men in Ireland as well as in England were not in a position to do their marketing before nine o'clock; and surely they ought to have the opportunity when shopping with their wives to go into a public-house and have some refreshment. Did the hon. member for South Tyrone suggest that by nine o'clock the working man had got as much drink as was good for him? Some hon. Members had spoken of the poor barmen who went to work at seven o'clock in the morning and were kept at it until eleven o'clock at night or after. Well, if the barmen were public spirited they would join their trade union, and if there was not a barmen's trade union, they should start one. Then he came to the clause about *bona fide* travellers and he was astounded and alarmed that any Member of Parliament should say that that provision was reasonable. For a *bona fide* traveller could not get a glass of beer—except under what conditions? First of all, he must prove that he had walked seven miles—there was no direction in the Bill as to how the seven miles were to be measured—and then he must write his name in the book which was to be kept open for all time to the inspection of the police and the magistrates. Talk about the Crimes Act in Ireland! There had never been any provision in any Cœrcion Acts so drastic, so retrograde, so barbarous as that. No man was to have an honest glass of beer without not only walking fourteen miles, but being branded as a semi-criminal—as a man who had transgressed the moral land of the law. He ventured to maintain that that was a proposal which even this House of Commons, with all its virtue, would hesitate to place on the Statute Book. However, that was not all. Even if a man had proved that he had travelled seven miles, and had signed his name, and shown his vaccination marks, and all the rest of it, he must, whether he wanted it or not, "partake of a meal." There was no interpretation clause in the Bill as to what was a meal. He asked whether it was conducive to public honesty that they should make a thirsty man pretend that he was hungry and go through the farce of purchasing some hybrid burlesque of a meal in order to get a drink? This Bill was a burlesque of social legislation.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Your speech is a burlesque.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.): Mr. Speaker, is it in order when one hon. Member is addressing the House for another hon. Member to say that his speech is a burlesque?

*MR. SPEAKER: That depends, I think, upon the spirit in which the phrase is used.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: The hon. Member, in dealing with a question which many of us regard as a very serious matter, described it as a burlesque. I described his speech as a burlesque of a speech—a very bad burlesque.

*MR. BOTTOMLEY said that a bad burlesque meant something that was too serious. He was as profoundly serious in this matter as the hon. Member for East Clare; but everything in this world had its comic aspect. He was almost a teetotaller himself, had had a great deal to do with working men, and was as profoundly interested in checking the drink evil as anyone else. He considered that this Bill would tend to create evils which its supporters did not realise. He contended seriously that this kind of legislation would have the tendency to drive men to drink indoors. It was no good driving an evil out of sight, and thinking that it had been done away with. He insisted that no legislation of this kind had ever resulted in the less consumption of alcoholic drink. It was class legislation in its worst form; it was contrary to every principle of freedom and liberty for the individual which he understood to be the foundation of the political creed which he was returned to this House to support.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said that all the Unionist and he thought almost all the Nationalist constituencies in Ireland were in favour of this Bill. The arguments they had heard to-day against the Bill seemed to him to be arguments in favour of prohibiting and interfering with the drink traffic altogether. The whole history of legislation in connection with the drink traffic had been one of control and restriction, and of control and restriction in the interests of the public—not in the interests of the trade—whose interests were far more important to be considered by the House of Commons than those of any trade however great. There was one great matter to be considered in dealing with this subject. The House of Commons had by legislation approved of the principle of closing public-houses in Ireland on Sunday, and the only bearing of this Bill was to extend its provisions to the towns exempted at that time. Large towns such as Derry and others were not exempted, and no one who represented those towns or was interested in their welfare had come to that House and asked the extension of the exemption which was given to the other five cities in Ireland. They had in Ireland this state of affairs. Parliament had said that it was the right thing to prohibit the sale of drink in Ireland on Sunday, and had merely exempted these cities because they desired to wait to see how it worked out. They in Ireland had had an opportunity of comparing the two systems, and he was expressing the opinions of the vast majority of the Irish people when he said that this exemption should be withdrawn, and that the time had arrived when those cities should be brought into line with the rest of the country. They would suffer no hardship from this, and he was surprised to hear what an hon. Member had said in reply to the hon. Member for South Tyrone regarding the attitude of the Churches in the matter. Was not this question one on which the ministers of religion and the heads of the Churches and those who took an interest in the welfare of the community were entitled to be heard? They had expressed their opinion in no uncertain manner and they were all agreed on this question, even those who were not extreme temperance reformers. Men who did not wish to restrict people who wished to have drink were all in favour of this Sunday closing. In England people were more accustomed to seeing what did not occur in Ireland—the working men getting their beer in jugs for dinner on Sunday. Only to a very small extent did that exist in Ireland. Working men in Ireland if they wished to obtain beer got it in bottles. That being so, there was no real hardship on men who wanted beer with their dinner. When the public-houses were open men were tempted to go in and indulge in drink instead of going out to the country to get fresh air. They spent their afternoons in the public-houses, doing themselves and their families an incalculable injury. Then came the case of the *bona fide* travellers. Parliament in providing for the *bona fide* traveller and legislating in this matter wanted to make the legislation effective, but at the same time it said that if a man had travelled three miles the probabilities were that that man was honestly going about his business, doing his work, moving from one place to another, and therefore he might reasonably get refreshment because he did not travel merely for the purpose of getting a drink. What had this been turned to? Everybody in Ireland knew that the great thing for a publican to do was to get a public-house just three miles outside a big city, because every Sunday afternoon men went out there—not as *bona fide* travellers or for recreation, but simply in search of drink. That was what the *bona fide* traveller question had come to in Ireland, and those who had observed that knew that the only way of dealing with it was to make a real test of the *bona fide* traveller and not a sham test as it was at present. As it was now a man had only to walk or go three miles and he was entitled to a drink. Three miles was nothing in these days of bicycles and other conveyances. It was a very short walk on a Sunday afternoon, but it was some test for a man to have to go seven miles as the Bill proposed. Members might throw ridicule upon this proposal and refer to it as legislation run wild, but they had only to bring it back to the test of common sense and experience. An amendment of the law regarding *bona fide* travellers was necessary, and those who administered the law in the great cities of Ireland—the resident and the police magistrates—endorsed the view that this change from three miles to seven was necessary, and would be a beneficial arrangement. Why should a man object if he was a *bona fide* traveller to putting his name and address in a book? He had nothing to complain about, and it would be a protection to the publican. They were trying to deal with a great evil, and they were not to be deterred from their purpose by mere imaginary and groundless alarm as to the injury it would do a man to put his name and address in a book. There might be someone in the House who could suggest a better means of ensuring the *bona fides* of travellers than those proposed in the Bill. Then there was the question of Saturday closing. It was said why did they not close them wholly. That would be an unreasonable proposal. No one wanted to be unreasonable, and the suggestion put forward in the Bill was to close public houses at nine o'clock. A grave evil in the large cities was that working men when they got their money and went out to buy provisions and other things for their families on Saturday evening, got into a public house and might stay there until eleven o'clock drinking away the money that ought to go to provide food for their children. It was not an unreasonable thing to curtail by two hours the time during which a man could go to a public house. No one wanted to prevent working men or any other men having reasonable facilities for refreshments or to say that they should not have a glass of beer; but there was no doubt that drink was a temptation even to men who were not viciously inclined, and he did not want to put too many opportunities in their way to spend their money in drink. Who was there who knew anything about life in the great cities of Ireland, and even in the small towns, who would suggest that by nine o'clock all facilities for shopping were not over? He did not think there was any hardship whatever in saying to a grocer or draper, if he chose to have a spirit licence, and unless he kept the two things separate, he must close at nine o'clock. If he wanted to get rid of one of his shops he could do so. This was not tyrranical legislation. Every one of those arguments about the interference with working men were brought up when first Sunday closing was introduced. They would always be brought up when any attempt was made to restrict licensing trade, or indeed any trade. Parliament had, by the Factory Acts, imposed certain restrictions of trade. This was a question of great importance to the social life of the community, and he was perfectly satisfied that the House would not be deterred from passing the Bill by arguments of the kind they had heard that night.

*Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) said he had read this Bill and he thought there was something to be said in its favour, and a great deal to be said in its disfavour. It was the fact that all commercial pursuits were in a state of suspension on one day of the week and it occurred to him that the selling of liquors ought not to be made an exception. But he saw nothing else in favour of the

Bill. It did not do away with the *bona fide* traveller arrangement, but still left it possible for a man who did not mind giving out seven or ten miles from a large town to get an overload of alcohol. He would take a concrete case. What was to prevent the *bona fide* traveller from Belfast visiting Bangor, Newcastle, or Donaghadee? There was no doubt that people went to a town some miles off and took an overload of drink because they knew no way of getting small supplies as they wanted them. This Bill proposed that all that sort of thing should continue; therefore he objected to it. He thought, moreover, that the Bill would encourage shebeening, and he thought it was infinitely worse to have to resort to an arrangement of that kind than to go to a public house and get an ordinary drink. He believed that it would be dangerous to the cause of morality to shut up public houses altogether on Sunday, and he thought that there should be a certain period of the day when those who were accustomed to get their liquor should go and get it and should not be driven to making secret arrangements to secure it, or to frequenting clubs where there was a great deal of card-playing, gambling and other vicious amusements going on. Ten years ago he sat upon a Royal Commission which for three years examined into the licensing question and heard the evidence of upwards of 300 witnesses. That Licensing Commission exhausted the whole field of debate and considered all the subjects which were raised by this Bill, and their decision was that the present system of Sunday closing should not be stopped. Their report was to the effect that local public opinion did not justify them in recommending complete Sunday closing in the five exempted cities in Ireland. He gathered, however, from the speech of the hon. Member for South Tyrone, that he did not think that that was the result of the report of the Commission, but it was the fact. It was also perfectly true that eight teetotalers brought up a minority report, but the report which he had quoted was the report of the majority. The fact was that this Licensing Commission consisted of eight men connected with the trade, eight teetotallers and eight neutrals, and the majority came to the conclusion that it would be a dangerous thing to close the houses altogether on Sunday. He therefore took objection to this measure and hoped it would not become an Act this session. He really felt that upon the whole it should not be read a second time. Certainly a similar measure would be rejected in England and he thought that the vast majority of the people of Ireland, notwithstanding what had been said, were in favour of opening the houses on Sunday in order to avoid greater dangers. It was a very singular thing that a trade which was under Government control—in fact, a trade which was a child of the Government, like that of the licensed victualler—should from time to time be made the subject of so many unwarrantable attacks upon those who were carrying on their business in a legitimate manner under the sanction of Parliament. He felt that he could speak disinterestedly on this subject, as he had no connection with the Irish trade, and because of his connection with the Royal Commission on the Licensing Laws, and he did think that when a properly constituted Commission arrived at the conclusion that no change was necessary, a Bill of this kind should not be brought forward. He therefore hoped the House would reject it, and he would close his observations by saying that he intended to go into the lobby against it.

*MR. S. COLLINS (Lambeth, Kennington) said he ventured to offer a few remarks in the House for the first time. The hon. Member who spoke as representing a London constituency had opposed the Bill, but he ventured as another London Member to give his earnest support to it. They ought not, he thought, to look upon this measure altogether as a teetotal question or a temperance question. He considered that it was a citizens' question, a national question, and a question for the whole of the people of this country to consider and deal with. He could assure their friends who were opposing the Bill that those who supported it did not take credit for being the possessors of all the virtues. They trusted and believed that there were many people, who were not abstainers but who were as anxious for the sobriety of the people as any temperance people. If temperance people gave very special attention to this subject why was it? It was because those who opposed these measures did not apprehend their anxiety to see the conditions of the people of this country bettered. A great deal had been said about facilities being given to the working man to get his beer. It was said that if they closed up all the public houses he could not get his beer as the rich man could, because the latter could go to his cellar and obtain it when he liked · but in these days there were so many commodities which were bottled and preserved that he thought that beer and spirits could be obtained bottled by the working man just as easily as he could obtain them from a public house. If a man wanted his pint of beer or stout he could buy it at a grocers' or an off-licensed house just as readily as he could buy it from a public house. He could always have his bottle of beer in the house and enjoy it on the Sunday without going to the public house. He thought that argument was of a most fallacious character. The question must be looked at from another point of view. Scotland and Wales had been referred to. The right hon. Gentleman the Lord Mayor of Dublin had said, however, that they were experimenting on Ireland; but that was not the case, because the whole experience went to show that where Sunday closing had been tried it had been a great success. Since Sunday closing had been instituted in Wales the state of things had been largely improved. Sunday, he would not say, was sacred to the people, but it was the day of rest for the people. Sunday throughout Great Britain and Ireland was reckoned to be the great day for the common people, and he thought it would be a bad day for England and Ireland when, the public houses being kept open, such a condition of things was established that the people could not rest on Sunday. A few days ago, a great meeting was held in London on this very subject, comprising members not only of the Anglican Church, of the Roman Catholic Church, but of members of all denominations; and the meeting was held to see what could be done to bring about a better condition of things in this country, so that Sunday might be held dearer by the people. If they carried out this Sunday closing, they would do much which would enable the working man to rise to greater heights. A question had been raised about the detriment which would be inflicted upon the barmen if this Bill were agreed to; but he thought that they ought not only to have consideration for the barmen, but also for the publicans and for their wives and families; and he believed that if a census were taken the majority of publicans and those engaged in the trade would vote for Sunday closing. If, moreover, they were to have sympathy with the barmen they ought also to have sympathy with the barmaids, especially as some of these toiled from 70 to 100 hours per week. He was sorry that so many of his friends from Ireland had risen in their places to oppose the Bill. He had always watched Ireland with interest and had sympathised with the aspirations of the people for their uplifting, and he thought that if those who opposed the Bill to-day would only go into the lobby in its favour they would do something to advance the cause of the people and to make Ireland what they were all anxious it should be, a happy, prosperous and contented country.

*MR. A. ROCHE (Cork) said he had listened with a great deal of interest to the debate, and he wished to deny the assertion that the Irish people were drunkards. In saying this he wished it to be understood that he had not only experience of the City of Cork but of the South of Ireland; and he could bear testimony to the fact that except upon special occasions, such as fair days, the Irish people were the most sober people in the world. Outside that, and the markets once a month, he could testify that there could not be found a more sober class of people than the class among which he lived in the South of Ireland. It was said that there were certain figures showing that the majority of the people were in favour of this legislation. He could only speak for the people of Cork, and he absolutely denied that. So far as they were concerned he was convinced that the people of Cork did not want the Bill. He had always been in favour of temperance, and had always thought that there was nothing so degrading as intemperance. But in his opinion the Bill would only lead to evil results. He knew a good many of these clubs in Cork, and he asserted that if this Sunday Closing Bill was passed for the City of Cork the clubs would increase, and the young men would frequent them and drink a great deal more than if the public-houses were open. That was his deliberate opinion. He had served his city in every elective capacity, and he had had opportunities of judging of the habits of the people and could testify not only to the temperate habits of the people of Cork but of the people of the South of Ireland generally. He asserted that if this Bill were passed it would have quite the contrary effect to what hon. Members intended. He agreed with what Charles Stewart Parnell said—

> "Such social questions as this could be more properly dealt with by an Irish Parliament."

It was quite possible that within a short period a measure of Home Rule would be extended to Ireland, and he knew of no question which could be more properly dealt with in Dublin than this. He appealed to the House not to pass this Bill.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.) said that although it had been suggested that this important question might usefully be left to an Irish Parliament to deal with he intended to vote for the Second Reading of the Bill because he was certain that Ireland was ripe for such legislation. There were some Amendments which would have to be made, but he hoped the Bill would with the assistance of the Government pass this year and take its place upon the Statute-book. He associated himself with all that had been said as to the sobriety of the people of Ireland. There had been a remarkable diminution of drunkenness in recent years. He lived in an important market town, and it was impossible not to observe a very remarkable falling off in the trade done by local public houses. Indeed, he felt able to assure the House that there were very few of the public houses in the town which were profitable to their owners. That fact had been evidenced by the great difficulty that was experienced in selling these houses when they came to change hands. That tended to show conclusively that drunkenness had diminished in Ireland, and they all rejoiced that that was the fact. As to Sunday travellers, he did not think that in many districts these were very numerous; in point of fact, they were rapidly becoming a thing of the past. It might be said that that was a good argument for not touching legislation in respect to Sunday travellers, but his opinion was that more difficulties should be placed in the way of such travellers. As to early closing on Saturdays, he was afraid that if public houses were closed so early as nine o'clock, there might be an increase in the number of what were termed bogus clubs. That was a real and very possible danger. He agreed with those who preferred a well-managed public house to a bogus club. He suggested, therefore, that in Committee it would be expedient to amend the measure in the way of not making it quite so drastic. The possibility was that if they began by closing public houses at ten o'clock instead of nine they might obviate that danger, and have more chance of carrying the Bill. He remembered that years ago legislation was passed in Canada requiring the closing of public-houses and hotels at seven o'clock on Saturday nights. The result of that very drastic legislation was a large increase in the illicit sale of liquor on Saturday evenings. Scotland had the same difficulty, but owing to stringent legislation passed in the last Parliament bogus clubs had been largely wiped out. Ireland was ripe for this measure. He trusted, therefore, that it would pass its Second Reading stage, and that the Government would facilitiate its passage so that it might be placed on the Statute-book this session.

*MR. FINDLAY (Lanarkshire, N.E.) said he desired to take up only a few minutes of the time of the House. He intervened in the discussion because Scotland had been held up as "the frightful example" of the result of Sunday closing, and he feared that such allusions as had been made might convey an erroneous impression. In the industrial district round Glasgow, they had more than once shortened the hours of public-houses, and the result had been that many workmen who were in the habit of losing a morning through the public-houses being open till eleven o'clock had since the ten o'clock rule had come into force done nothing of the sort. A very great improvement had been noticed in that regard. In Scotland they had had Sunday closing for half a century. In his town there were some years ago six hotels which had the Sunday licence and such a nuisance did they become that the public themselves insisted upon their being closed on Sunday, and that was done with very great benefit to the town. He was satisfied that if they could get a *plébiscite* of the people of Scotland the votes would be ten to one in favour of Sunday closing. With regard to this question he was confident that the working men of Scotland were in favour of limiting the hours for the sale of liquor on week days and for the complete closing of the public houses on the Sunday. They all agreed that this traffic was working a great evil, and that being so it was astonishing to him and it was a great anomaly—and he could not get beyond this point—that any legislature acting for a Christian country should legalise the public sale of anything that was having such an evil effect upon the people. From his own observation and from what he knew was the general opinion of Scotland the people would never go back to opening the public-houses on a Sunday. The Sabbath day was a day for rest and worship and anything which militated against that ought to be stamped out.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he was sure that those Irish Members who were in favour of this Bill were greatly indebted to the hon. Member for North East Lanark for what he had just said. He thought if the trouble were taken to canvas the Scottish Members generally, it would be found in spite of some figures quoted by his friend the Member for Dublin county, that the Scottish Members as a whole were in favour of this Bill. He did not intend to discuss the merits of the Bill to-day. They had been discussed over and over again. He intervened because he thought the public outside would be greatly misled if this debate came to a conclusion without one representative of the Nationalist Party of Ireland saying something in favour of the Bill. They had heard the hon. Member for South Belfast give the views of the section which he represented in Ireland in favour of the Bill. They had heard from the hon. Member for South Tyrone the views of the section for which he spoke; they had had from distinguished and influential Members of the Nationalist Party a declaration against the Bill, but from not one Member of the Nationalist Party in the House had they heard any expression of opinion in favour of it. Nothing could be more misleading than to suppose that there was no Nationalist feeling upon this question. He believed he was well within the truth when he said that half those who represented Nationalist or Home Rule Constituencies in Ireland were in favour of the principle of this measure. All he could say was that in the last Parliament, when this matter was discussed in 1903, the majority of the members of the Nationalist Party recorded their votes in favour of closing earlier on Saturday night. It would be seen therefore that the opinions of the Nationalist Members were nearly as strong as those of hon. Members representing Ulster constituencies. He had always been in favour of Sunday closing in Ireland and he recalled with a considerable degree of satisfaction—and the hon. Member for South Tyrone would bear him out in this—that in the year 1878, when an Irish Sunday Closing Bill was first passed in this House, his own father, then Member for Wexford, had a good deal to do with the passing of that measure. He therefore naturally took a very great interest in the question. He was bound to say that twenty years ago, when he first entered the House, and for some time afterwards, he felt the greatest doubt as to whether restrictive legislation of this, or any kind, would have the effect of promoting temperance in Ireland. The condition of affairs in Ireland then was that almost everything there was subject to coercion. A large number of the Members representing Irish constituencies and thousands of the Irish people were lying in prison without trial, and he held the opinion that with this Bill being administered by a policy of coercion, it would not be possible to achieve any great good. While he voted for Sunday closing in 1892, he found on referring to *Hansard* that when a measure of this kind was brought in by the hon. Member for South Tyrone in 1895 he took exception to it, and expressed the view that it would not be possible to get Sunday closing in Ireland while the five great cities were exempted; that he was not satisfied with the Bill, because no undertaking was given in it to consider the position of the five large cities. They were told in those days also that an Irish Parliament—one simply representing the Irish people—was the proper tribunal to decide this question. He held those views twenty years ago and ten years ago, but he was not ashamed to say that he had changed his opinion to this extent, that while he would be glad to see every Irish question settled by a purely Irish assembly, and while he thought that that was the proper assembly to settle such questions, he thought that this question was of such urgency that it should be dealt with by this Parliament, or any Parliament that could deal with it. Hon. Gentlemen representing Ireland could claim that they were as much in favour of temperance as anyone in this House. There were no temperance Members in this House who could exceed the views on temperance reform of the Irish Members. There was not a man on the Irish benches among those who were going presently to oppose this Bill who would not say he did not consider it his duty to do everything in his power to promote temperance. The difference was that they did not believe that temperance was to be promoted by measures such as this. Objection was taken to this Bill from two points of view. First of all they were told that it was a Bill to be dealt with by an Irish Parliament. He hoped there would soon be an Irish Parliament, but in the meantime he would say that if they were willing to take from this Parliament legislation on the land question and other matters affecting the benefit of the people they should also take legislation upon this, which was a question of vital importance to their people. The question was, was this method of dealing with it effective? Hon. Gentlemen said it would have a contrary effect. Figures were quoted to show that it had failed in Scotland, but he did not believe there was any question upon which they could not get figures to prove something different. He believed a dispassionate consideration of the figures connected with this matter would prove that Sunday closing had been a success and was an argument in favour of this measure. The point to consider in regard to this Bill was this. Was it not good to remove the temptation to drink? Some said that if public-houses were not open clubs would be established and drinking would go on there. But he submitted that that was not true, that open public-houses constituted a great temptation, and that without a great success being achieved by this measure its passage could do no possible harm and possibly some good. It was said that the Irish people should not be legislated for in this manner. But the whole of the people of Scotland had been legislated for in this way. It was unnecessary for him to say that every Irishman repudiated with indignation and scorn the charge that the Irish were more drunken than any other people. The figures year after year proved that more money was spent in drink in England than in Scotland; that more was spent in Scotland than in Ireland, and that in proportion to the population less was spent in Ireland than in either Scotland or England. One of the hardest things which men who demanded this legislation had to face was the insinuation that when demanding temperance legislation of this kind they were tacitly admitting the accuracy of the charge made against their country. Nothing of the sort. He believed that Irishmen as a whole were infinitely more sober than either the people of England or Scotland, and while he supported this legislation he indignantly repudiated that statement as contrary to the fact. Upon the question generally he would only say that the amount of money spent in Ireland in intoxicating liquor was far too much. It was a monstrous thing from any point of view that double the whole rental value of Ireland should be spent in this way. The hon. Member for Belfast had referred to a statement he (Mr. Redmond) made some years ago to the effect that when he was abroad on a political mission endeavouring to get something for the Irish people he was continually confronted with the statement that in Ireland, a country suffering under a great many disabilities, £13,000,000 or £14,000,000 was spent in drink. He said the Irish people could not afford to do that, and that money spent in that way was a danger to the national life of the country. He did not entirely endorse the views of the hon. Gentleman the Member for South Tyrone, or of the hon. Baronet the Member for Cockermouth. He did not go so far in this matter as they. In his view there was nothing that was in itself wrong, illegitimate, or criminal in the use of alcohol provided it was used and not abused, but he did say that for a country with a population of 4,000,000 of people to find £13,000,000 or £14,000,000 spent annually in drink could not be right. The drink Bill of the country was enormously large. With the enormous expenditure of this country they heard of overwhelming burdens—the Boer war cost £250,000,000—of little children going to school showing hunger in their faces; of the workhouses being crowded by honest men and women whose only crime that they were poor in their old age. When appeals were made to the Government to feed the hungry children and to keep the old and honest poor out of the workhouse they said there was no money. Then they went into the library and found from the statistics that close on £200,000,000 was spent every year on drink. Therefore he said that legislation of this kind or of any kind that would promote the general idea of temperance was good. The need for Ireland was not so great as that for the two countries of Great Britain, but the demand was great and so far as he was concerned he, so far from being ashamed of the fact, said, that in his experience, which covered the whole of the British Empire, the evidence had carried weight with him; that he had been open to conviction, and he was able now frankly to say that he believed something should be done by Parliament and the Government to help the people towards that better condition of temperance which they all desired to see. He knew it was not always a popular thing to take this view, still less was it popular for a Member of the Nationalist Party to change his views as he had changed his on this matter. He met the other day a friend who said to him—

> "Much as you have changed your opinions in this matter, surely you are not going to follow the lead of the hon. Member for South Belfast, who is one of the most bitter Orangemen and one of the most bitter enemies of the Irish Nationalist sentiment in Ireland."

His reply to that was that while he had no love for the Orange section, the hon. Member, representing not merely the Orange section, was right in this matter, and that if the hon. Member represented his Satanic majesty himself, so long as he did what was right he would support him. He for one was heartily glad that there was at least one question upon which Irish Members of all parties were agreed. This was one of the greatest questions of the day and one of the best signs he saw in Ireland to-day was that there was throughout the length and breadth of the country a desire upon the part of all, to whatever school of thought they belonged, to do the best they could for the country upon all those questions upon which they could agree, and that they were becoming more eager to regard each other with that toleration, good feeling, and comradeship which ought to obtain in that country. It was particularly hard for him to take the course he was now pursuing, because many of his best and most respected friends in Ireland were gentlemen connected with the licensed trade; of those gentlemen he had nothing whatever to say except what was good. They had taken their full part in the local life of the country and for every good cause their hands and their purses were stretched out. He made an appeal to new Members of Parliament to listen to the voices of the Irish people in this matter. The tendency in Ireland to-day was in favour of sobriety and national temperance, and those who said the country was drunken should go to Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, the day of the patron saint of Ireland, when they would see a vast concourse of 50,000 or 60,000 people, celebrating the day, and all of them sober. No other city in the world could show so splendid a spectacle. He did not know that he would have many more opportunities of speaking upon this subject. He had parted from friends that he had been closely connected with for twenty-three years over this matter. He had received condemnation from quarters which he should never have anticipated it from. Those were personal matters which he only mentioned to show that he was acting in this matter from most absolute and sincere convictions. Every single personal influence he had in the world was against it, many of his personal friends and many of his political supporters were against him and nothing more or less than a simple but absolute sense that it was his duty as a man enabled him to speak out to-day. He appealed to hon. Members opposite to remember that though none of the leading Members of the Nationalist Party were speaking in the direction in which he spoke, he believed the majority of the rank and file were in favour of the Bill. In this matter he spoke for a number of the rank and file of the Irish Party, and in their name appealed to hon. Members opposite to allow this Bill to be read a second time, and to show the public at large that there was a disposition on the part of this House to give to the Irish people those powers which were necessary for the promotion of national temperance, and which were for the national good.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said he did not remember for a very long time having heard a speech in which the true note of personal conviction and earnest sincerity rang so clear and true. It was with the greatest pleasure that English and Scottish Members found the Irish Members joining in the promotion of a reform which affected the interest of their common country apart from divisions of religious and political opinion. He trusted that this habit would grow, and that the Irish Members would be found co-operating more and more in all movements tending to the social and economic progress of the country. The arguments advanced in favour of this measure were practically the same for the three countries, and therefore the experience of Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall might well be cited. That experience was in favour of this Bill. The experience in those three districts was that a restriction in the sale of intoxicating liquor did tend to a considerable diminution of intemperance. Saturday and Sunday were the two days of the week on which the temptation to drink was greatest, because the workers were paid upon a Saturday, while on Sunday they had nothing to do. In addition to the experience of Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall they had the experience of those parts of Ireland in which Sunday closing had already produced a great effect. The results in the areas of Ireland outside the excepted five cities had been admittedly beneficial and thoroughly good. No demand had come from the other parts of Ireland for any relaxation of the existing restrictions, and, therefore, there was a strong presumption in favour of this suggested extension. Personally he believed that there was a real movement in favour of temperance in Ireland, and in his judgment this was one of the most encouraging signs connected with the progress of the country. He denied that the Catholic Church did not sufficiently advocate temperance. The most striking temperance campaign ever attempted was that of Father Mathew. He must also pay a tribute to the work done by the Gaelic League, which had set itself with great earnestness and a large measure of success to encouraging temperance. The argument that a limitation of hours ought to be accompanied by compensation had no sanction in precedent and was far-fetched. It was said that these restrictions would lead to the illicit sale of liquor; but it had not been found impossible to keep the traffic under control in other towns. As to the inconvenience inflicted on a few working men, they might well consent to submit to it for the sake of the immeasurable benefit to their class. For these reasons the case of Ireland was stronger for these restrictions than that of England or Scotland. The Irish nation were given to hospitality; and the invitation to an Irishman to drink in the company of his friends was more tempting than to the Englishman and much more than to the Scotchman. In the second place Ireland was a much poorer country than either England or Scotland, or even than Wales, and this worked in a doubly injurious way. The poorer a man was the more wretched he was, and the more apt he was to seek some consolation in drink, and the less he had to pay for it. Therefore the poverty of Ireland was a reason why they should be more anxious and scrupulous to remove temptation out of the way of the Irishman even than out of the way of the Englishman. Lastly he was bound to revert to a more delicate matter. It had come to his knowledge that the growth of tubercular disease was assuming very serious proportions. It was getting worse in Ireland, whereas it was getting less in Scotland, and he thought the time had come when serious measures might have to be taken to endeavour to arrest it. He was sure the habit of intemperance was one of the causes which made for the increase of tubercular disease, and both tubercular disease and the abuse of intoxicating liquor produced a further result even more deplorable. The increase of lunacy in Ireland was one of the most alarming symptoms. No one doubted, he supposed, that excessive use of alcohol was one of the most active and predisposing causes. On these grounds alone, he had no hesitation in supporting this Bill.

Mr. SLOAN rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided; Ayes, 222; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 92.)

AYES.

Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, J. Emmott (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T‘w‘rHamlets,S. Geo
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clough, W.
Coats,Sir T Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.

Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH (Sussex, E.Grinst'd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H. (S.Pancras,N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Gardner, Col.Alan (Hereford,S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Hamilton, Marquess, of
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George, A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)

Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester

M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Massie, J.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk,E.
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Sir G Scott(Bradf'rd
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Verney F. W.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Ward,W. Dudley (Southamp'n
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Sloan and Mr. T. L. Corbett.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood,Rt Hn Sir Alex F.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn.Sir H.
Baldwin, Alfred
Barnard, E. B.
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Crean, Eugene
Dixon-Hartland,Sir Fred Dixon
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Halpin, J.
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hogan, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lockwood, Rt. Hn Lt-Col.A. R.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Meagher, Michael
Mooney, J. J.
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph
OBrien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James(RoscommonN.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rothschild, Sir Edward Albert
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Nanetti and Mr Clancy.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 243; Noes, 46. (Division List No. 93.)

AYES.

Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, J. Emmott (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Boland, John
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brunner, J. F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness, Burghs
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)

Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalrymple Viscount
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(S.Pancras,N.)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fewnick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George, A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M.(Falkirk B'ghs
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Masterman, C. F. G.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron, Walden)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas.E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tokminson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Herny J, (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Sloan and Mr. T. L. Corbett.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Baldwin, Alfred
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barnard, E. B.
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.

Cogan Denis J.
Crean, Eugene
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Halpin, J.
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison, Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hogan, Michael
Hunt, Rowland
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Meagher, Michael
Mooney, J. J.
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. Howard
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Young, Samuel
Younger George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Nannetti and Mr. Clancy.

Main Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 244 ; Noes. 50. (Division List No. 94).

AYES.

Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christch.)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm's't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bilson Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff.)
Boland, John
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down E.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (G'lw.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, G'v'n
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everell, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Gardener, Col. Alan (Heref'dS.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberd'n, W.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'hs
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.

Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Mara James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Phillpps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomasson Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Yoxall. James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Sloan and Mr. T. L. Corbett.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Ambrose, Robert
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Baldwin, Alfred
Banner, John S. Harmwood-
Barnard, E. B.
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Cogan, Denis J.
Crean, Eugene
Faber, George Denison (York)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Halpin, J.
Harrington, Timothy
Hogan, Michael
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Eves'm
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Meagher, Michael
Mooney, J. J.
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Sassoon Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Nannetti and Mr. Clancy.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c."—(*Mr. Sloan.*)

MR. CREAN opposed the Motion. He argued that he and other Members had not had the opportunity of expressing the views of their constituents on the Second Reading and were entitled to be heard in Committee on the floor of the House. He protested against the Bill being discussed in a back room upstairs. He thought they were quite justified in opposing this Motion. Not a single Nationalist Irishman on any of the public boards in Ireland had ever stood up in support of this Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member is not entitled to discuss the merits of the Bill on this Motion. The question is whether or not the measure should be sent to the Committee.

MR. CREAN said many hon. Members had been deprived of the opportunity of giving their views on account of the Closure, and, although he was a teetotaller himself, he thought he was justified in opposing this Motion and insisting that this Bill should be discussed on the floor of this House. He was adopting this course because he considered that it was the duty of an Irish representative to express the views of his own constituency and not give expression to fads of his own.

MR. SLOAN upon a point of order asked if the hon. Member was in order in discussing the principle of the Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member's argument is quite in order.

MR. CREAN said he was not a member of the Standing Committee to which it was proposed to refer this Bill, and therefore, if this Motion was carried, he would be debarred from voicing the opinions of his constituency. Many hon. Members had spoken in fear and trembling of what would happen if they voted against this Bill. He thought they had a perfect right to demand that this measure should not be sent to a Committee upstairs. All the hon. Members who had spoken had not got the courage of the hon. Member for East Clare, who had confessed that he represented not the views of his constituents upon this question, but his own strong feelings in the matter.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I am sure the hon. Member does not wish to misrepresent me. A meeting of my constituents was called and they passed a Resolution condemning my action, and I replied, stating that if they took steps to show me that they represented any large body of my constituents I would resign at once. I may say that I have never heard from them since on this question.

MR. CREAN said that personally he should be very sorry that any steps should be taken by the electors of East Clare which would deprive them of the eloquent services and the geniality of the hon. Member. Although he differed from the hon. Member on this question, if he were asked to sign such a memorial he would be the first to say "Leave him alone; he is a good fellow although he may be wrong." He hoped that hon. Members would join with him in protesting against this Bill being taken from the purview of the House. He knew that the feelings of hon. Members like the Member for South Tyrone were so strong upon this subject that he would defy the opinions of a majority of his constituents if necessary, but he thought on a matter of this kind the views of the electors ought to prevail.

*MR. J. P. NANNETTI said he was sure he should be voicing the opinion of all his colleagues when he congratulated the hon. Member for South Fermanagh upon his recovery, and upon having left a sick bed to attend and vote according to his convictions. He agreed with his hon. friend the Member for South East Cork that this measure ought to be discussed in Committee of the Whole House. If it were discussed by such a Committee Members would have an opportunity of seeing that it was being imposed upon the Irish people against the wishes of a great majority of Irish Nationalist Members. If it were sent to a Committee upstairs the public would not know what was being done. Although the Irish Nationalists represented a minority on this question they represented the feelings of the Irish people. Were they going to allow themselves to be voted down by Englishmen and Scotsmen on a question which vitally affected Ireland? It was their bounden duty to use all the forms of the House to protest against any action which would facilitate the furtherance of the Bill. Who were the members of this Grand Committee?

MR. SLOAN rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put," but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

Debate resumed.

*MR. J. P. NANNETTI, continuing his Speech, said it was not right that individual feelings on such a momentous question as this should be allowed to overrule the opinion of the representatives of Ireland. [Cries of "Divide, divide."]

Mr. SLOAN again rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes 234; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 95.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Boland, John
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laildaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down S.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
OMara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Rainy, A. Rollard
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robson, Sir William Snowdon

Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas.E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Torrance, A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds,S.)
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. W (Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Nannetti and Mr. Clancy.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Ambrose, Robert
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.SirH.
Barnard, E. B.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Faber, George Denison (York)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol West)
Halpin J.
Harrington Timothy
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Meagher, Mchael
Mooney, J. J.
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E.Howard
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Sloan and Mr. T. L. Corbett.

Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc."

The House divided:—Ayes, 229; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 96.)

AYES.

Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armitage, R.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey, (Isle of Wight
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie,H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hubert (Eastbourne
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W. (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Boland, John
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs. Leigh)
Bryce, Rt HnJames (Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Bull, Sir William James
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Coats,Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Craig,Captain James (Down,E
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dobson, Thomas, W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain, A.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J, H. (York, Otley)
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel, T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles

Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Gardner, Col.Alan (Hereford,S.
Gibb, James, (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon.Richard B.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert,Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones, Lief (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Rovert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,JM (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey Thomas Willans
O'Donnell C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady J.
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh,C'ntral)
Price,RobertJohn (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampton
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,SirG.Scott (Bradf'rd
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas. E.(Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Shaw, Rt. Hon.T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor,Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Torrance, A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Walters, John Tudor
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wason Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason John Cathcart(Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson, P, W. (St.Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Sloan and Mr. T. L. Corbett.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.Sir Alex.F
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Barnard, E. B.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Cogan , Denis J.
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Faber, George Denison, (York)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, E.)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West.)
Halpin, J.
Harrington, Timothy
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal, E)
M'Hugh, Patrick, A.
Meagher, Michael
Mooney, J. J.
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rothschild, Hon.LionelWalter
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Thornton, Percy M.

Vincent, Col. Sir C.E. Howard
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Watt, H. Anderson
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Nannetti and Mr. Clancy.

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

GROUND GAME BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION) BILL.

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [22nd May], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION [EXPENSES].

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the expenses of the Secretary of State, and of the remuneration and expenses of medical referees and arbitrators incurred under any Act of the present session to consolidate and amend the Law with respect to compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment, and of compensation to Workmen employed by or under the Crown in pursuance of such Act."

Resolution agreed to.

And, it being half-past five of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at half after Five o'clock till Monday next.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLVII.

Those marked thus* are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

(A.) House of Lords.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Aliens	*Lord Weardale*	Second Reading defeated 17th May (593)
*Alkali, etc., Works		Read 1^a 25th May (1516)
Bills of Exchange [H.L.]	*Lord Avebury*	Read 2^a 15th May (313)
*Colonial Marriages [H.L.]	*Earl of Elgin*	Read 2^a 15th May (316) Committee 25th May (1548)
*Criminal Appeal [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee 22nd May (1076)
Education of Defective Children (Scotland)		Read 1^a 15th May (312)
Elections (Meetings in Schoolroom) [H.L.]	*Lord Burghclere*	Committee 15th May (316) Report 25th May (1557)
*Extradition	*Lord Chancellor*	Read 2^a 11th May (28) Committee, Report } 17th May (613) Read 3^a and passed 18th May (1746)
*Justices of the Peace (No.2).	*Lord Chancellor*	Read 1^a 17th May (587)
Juvenile Smoking		Read 2^a 22nd May (1100)
*Local Authorities (Transfer of Treasury Powers)		Read 1^a 17th May (587)
*Matrimonial Clauses Acts Amendment	*Lord Chancellor*	Read 2^a 11th May (27) Committee, Report } 17th May (613) Read 3^a and passed 21st May (856)
Merchant Shipping (Aliens) [H.L.]	*Lord Muskerry*	Bill withdrawn 18th May (750)
Municipal Corporations		Read 1^a 14th May (98)

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Poisons and Pharmacy [H.L.]	*Earl of Crewe*	Report 11th May (6) Read 3ª and passed 22nd May (1098)
*Police Superannuation	*Earl Beauchamp*	Committee 17th May (587) Report 25th May (1557)
*Public Trustee [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Read 3ª and passed 11th May (29)
*Reserve Forces	*Earl of Portsmouth*	Read 1ª 17th May (587)
*Seamen and Soldiers' False Characters	*Earl of Portsmouth*	Read 1ª 17th May (587)
Street Betting [H.L.]	*Lord Davey*	Read 3ª and passed 18th May (770)
*Wireless Telegraphy	*Earl of Granard*	Committee 18th May (747)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Advertisement Regulations	*Mr. Hart Davis*	Read 1° 22nd May (1148)
*Alkali, etc., Works	*Mr. John Burns*	Committee 15th May (449) „ 21st May (1060)
*Census of Production	*Mr. Lloyd-George*	Read 1° 16th May (50)
*Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland)	*Mr. Cherry*	Read 1° 21st May (959)
Coal Mines (Eight Hours)	*Mr. Brunner*	Read 2° 11th May (41)
Coal Mines (Regulations)	*Mr. Compton Rickett*	Second Reading (adjourned) 11th May (92)
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment	*Mr. Weir*	Read 2° 25th May (1633)
Dublin Civil Bill Court Amendment	*Mr. Healy*	Read 1° 22nd May (1148)
Education Acts Amendment	*Sir J. Brunner*	Read 1° 21st May (959)
*Education (Consolidation)	*Mr. Birrell*	Read 1° 14th May (208)
*Education (England and Wales)	*Mr. Birrell*	Committee 21st May (960) „ 22nd May (1149) „ 23rd May (1304)
Education of Defective Children (Scotland)	*Mr. Gulland*	Read 3° and passed 14th May (303)
*Extradition [H.L.]	*Sir Edward Grey*	Read 1° 23rd May (1303)
*Finance	*Mr. Asquith*	Read 2° 16th May (504)
Ground Game	*Mr. Beale*	Read 2° 18th May (851) Committee, Report 25th May (1633) Read 3° and passed 25th May (1633)
Judicature [H.L.]	*Sir W. Robson*	Read 1° 11th May (41)
Land Tax Commissioners	*Mr. McKenna*	Read 1° 23rd May (1304)
Licensing Act (1902) Amendment	*Mr. S. Wilson*	Read 1° 22nd May (1148)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Local Authorities (Transfer of Treasury Powers)	*Mr. McKenna*	Committee } 15th May (399) Report } (445) Read 3° and passed 15th May (399) (445)
Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment [H.L.]	*Mr. Herbert Samuel*	Read 1° 23rd May (1303)
*Metropolitan Police (Commission)	*Mr. Gladstone*	Read 1° 21st May (959) Read 2° 25th May (1633)
Municipal Corporations	*Mr. Vivian*	Read 3° and passed 11th May (96)
*Naval Lands (Volunteers)	*Mr. E. Robertson*	Read 1° 14th May (208)
Patents	*Mr. J. D. White*	Read 1° 16th May (499)
Pilotage	*Mr. Howell Davies*	Bill Withdrawn 22nd May (1148)
*Plural Voting	*Mr. Harcourt*	Read 2° 14th May (208) (263)
*Public Trustee [H.L.]	*Sir J. Walton*	Read 1° 22nd May (1148)
Railways and Steamships (Parliamentary Facilities)	*Mr. Crooks*	Read 1° 16th May (499)
*Reserve Forces	*Mr. Haldane*	Read 3° and passed 15th May (376)
Right of Way	*Mr. Paulton*	Read 1° 23rd May (1304)
Sale of Coke	*Mr. Rose*	Bill Withdrawn 14th May (303)
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland)	*Mr. Sloan*	Read 2° 25th May (1565)
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday	*Mr. Perks*	Read 1° 17th May (668)
School Board Electorate (Scotland)	*Mr. Weir*	Read 2° 25th May (1632)
*Seamen and Soldiers False Characters	*Mr. Haldane*	Committee } 15th May (378) Report } Read 3° and passed 15th May (378)
Solicitors [H.L.]	*Sir E. Clarke*	Read 1° 23rd May (1303)
Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland)	*Mr. T. W. Russell*	Read 1° 14th May (208)
Town Holdings	*Mr. Rowlands*	Read 1° 21st May (959)
Town Tenants	*Mr. McKillop*	Read 2° 18th May (782)
Wills Act (1837) Amendment	*Mr. J. D. White*	Read 1° 16th May (500)

APPENDIX II

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1906.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

In Continuation of List given in previous Volume.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Camberwell and Stockton-on-Tees, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops within the Boroughs [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	14 May	40 days
Education (Scotland) (Continuation Classes),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further Instruction for those who have left School, 1906 [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	15 May	One month
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of Shops in the Burgh of Airdrie [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	15 May	40 days
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. XV. (Edinburgh, No. 6) (Regulations of the Degree of Bachelor of Science and Forestry) [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20]	21 May	12 weeks

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[AUTHORISED EDITION].

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Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

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Secretary for State for the Colonies
Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.

Secretary of State for the Home Department
Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.

Secretary of State for India
Rt. Hon. J. Morley.

Secretary for Scotland
Rt. Hon, J. Sinclair.

Secretary of State for War
Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.
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